

HALESOWEN CHRONICLE



Thursday, October 30, 2014

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PAGE 24

ALBION WOE

Cherries pick off Baggies in cup clash



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Tory says sorry for filming in his car

AN aide to a Tory candidate in one of the West Midlands' most marginal seats has apologised for filming himself while driving.

Jack Spriggs, who works for Dudley North candidate Afzal Amin, is also standing to be a councillor in the St James's ward in Dudley.

The 19-year-old was revealed at the weekend to have posted videos on Instagram of himself singing loudly with friends while at the wheel. The car is seen to be moving and Mr Spriggs looks into the camera, which appears to be on the dashboard and using the front facing camera.

Campaign

Mr Spriggs said: "The video footage I uploaded was filmed 'hands-free' - with the phone mounted using a car kit. However I realise simply because something is legal does not make it the safest way to drive, so I will not be repeating my mistake."

The video is embarrassing for Mr Amin who has campaigned for measures to improve Dudley's road surfaces, where he says potholes pose a risk to safety.

Dudley Labour councillor Adam Aston said: "Jack Spriggs' actions were irresponsible and immature."

Fire strike at bonfire time

FIREFIGHTERS will go on strike for four days this weekend - traditionally one of the busiest times of the year due to Bonfire Night.

Members of the Fire Brigades Union will walk out from 6pm on Friday until 6pm on Tuesday, as thousands of people hold bonfire and firework celebrations.

It is the latest set of industrial action in an ongoing row with the Government over pension reform.

The walkout has been branded as 'irresponsible' by MPs.

FIRMS URGED TO AID TOWN

BUSINESSES in Halesowen and Stourbridge may soon be asked to pay extra tax to fund town centre improvements.

Dudley Council is drawing up proposals for Business Improvement Districts (BID) in both areas. The scheme will see firms join forces to create a single company and each member pays a levy.

Members will get to decide how the money is spent. The cash could be used to fund special events, more security or promote the towns and make them more attractive.

Chairman of Halesowen Chamber of Trade Wayne Edwards welcomed the plan. "The process is that the Chamber bids for this and has to get a majority of business to agree before it is taken forward," he said.

Footfall

"If we do get the agreement of a majority, that means we will have funds coming in from each business to spend in the town however we like."

"It is a fantastic idea as it means we will be able to re-vamp and market the town to get footfall and shoppers in which will be good for every trader."

"What is good is that each business will pay the same

By Heather Large

percentage of their business rates so bigger corporations, such as supermarkets, who currently pay a minuscule amount to the town, will have to contribute more money than smaller independent stores.

"It will also allow us to put on more big events. I think it will be fantastic for Halesowen."

It is estimated that a BID company in Halesowen could generate £51,668 with a one per cent levy and £103,337 if it is set at two per cent.

In Stourbridge, it is estimated that a one per cent levy would bring in £91,000 and a two per cent one £182,000.

Money generated would be ring-fenced to be spent on projects agreed by businesses in the BID for the benefit of their area.

Simples! Baby meerkats will be big hit



Delight - these three week old meerkats are sure to melt the hearts of visitors to the West Midland Safari Park

SMALL enough to fit on the palm of your hand, these tiny meerkats are the latest arrivals set to melt the hearts of visitors to West Midland Safari Park.

The three-week-old cuties are being cared for by Manula, their mother, and Michelle Howes, a keeper in the African Village section of the park.

They will go on show to the public next month when their antics are expected to prove a hit with families visiting the attraction.

Bob Lawrence, director of wildlife at the park, said: "It will be a couple of weeks before they go on show to the public and are still being suckled by

their mother. We had another litter earlier in the year and they were a big hit with visitors. Obviously they prove that Meerkat Mayhem is a hit with the public and that it has put the meerkat family on the map."

Clans

Meerkat Mayhem is the special enclosure at the Safari Park and is proving a huge hit with visitors.

The animals belong to the mongoose family and are found in all parts of the Kalahari Desert in Botswana and in the Namib Desert and south western Angola and South Africa.

Groups are known as a 'mob, gang or clan'.

Clans can often number between 20 or 50 individuals and they can live for 12 to 14 years.

The name meerkat actually means 'marsh cat'.

Another new arrival at the park who is already greeting visitors, is an Axis deer calf who was born on Sunday. Mr Lawrence said: "The deer can give birth throughout the year but it is always nice to see them."

The park has a herd of 12 Axis deer which can be identified by their pinkish fawn coats with white spots.

Work to start on uniting attractions

WORK to create a shared visitor hub for three of the Black Country's biggest tourist attractions - as part of a £10.1million masterplan - gets under way next month.

It will link Dudley Zoo with the Black Country Living Museum and Dudley Canal Trust and is aimed at propelling the number of people visiting the town towards one million a year.

Shared

The shared entrance will lead from the new 600-space visitor car park and provide information on all three sites.

Tourism bosses hope a shared arrival entrance will help encourage families to visit all three sites, rather than just one or two.

Work is also under way on a new recreational route which will link the three attractions, from a new road created off Tipton Road.

The project has been backed by around £4.5m of European funding.

Chief executive John Polychronakis, who was updating cabinet members at a meeting last night (Wednesday), said: "The contract for the Visitor Arrival Hub has been awarded with construction starting in November and completion due in April 2015."

New paths to boost reserve

NEW footpaths have been created at a Halesowen nature reserve as part of a redevelopment project.

The wardens at the English Heritage Grade I registered site have managed the installation of 3,687ft of footpaths with 260 tons of stone.

Staff say the improvements will enable people to visit the site all year round.

The latest developments are a continuation of the restoration work already carried out at The Leasowes.

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Bedroom blaze led to man's death

A 65-year-man from Dudley was rescued from a fire at his house but died five days later in hospital, an inquest heard.

Devakumaran Ramasamy died in Queen Elizabeth Hospital on July 26 after suffering burns and smoke inhalation on July 21. An inquest at Smethwick Council House heard a passer-by had dragged him from his house in Bourne Street, Dudley.

Senior coroner for the Black Country Zafar Siddique said Mr Ramasamy's death was accidental, after a cigarette caused the fire.

His partner, Trisha Baldwin, said in a statement that she had taken Mr Ramasamy some food in his bedroom before returning downstairs.

Mr Siddique said: "Between 30 and 45 minutes later she was alerted to a smoke alarm. She

opened the bedroom door and found that his bedroom was filled with black smoke.

"She couldn't get into the room because of the smoke so went downstairs to alert the neighbours. A male passer by, who wasn't named, entered the property. Mr Ramasamy had managed to crawl to the relative safety of the landing. The passer-by went up the steps

and dragged him downstairs and into the front garden."

Mr Siddique ruled that Mr Ramasamy's death was due to a severe pulmonary edema, smoke inhalation and facial burns. Heart and kidney problems contributed to his death. He added: "This was an accidental death due to, on the balance of probability, a discarded cigarette."

Borough school pupils' results above average

DUDLEY is above the national average for the number of pupils achieving at least five A*-C grades, including English and maths, in their GCSES — although fewer achieved the top grades this year.

Latest statistics from the Department for Education show 52.7 per cent of pupils scored at least five C grades in their GCSEs, including English and maths, this year compared with 59.7 per cent last year.

Faces back catalogue celebration

THERE is a special night for fans of 1970s rock band The Faces next Thursday at the Robin 2 venue in Bilston.

The group was formed in 1969 by former members of London Mod band The Small Faces (Ronnie Lane, Ian McLagan and Kenney Jones), having recruited guitarist Ronnie Wood, who went on to join The Rolling Stones, and young blues singer Rod Stewart.

The concert features tributes to the Small Faces, The Faces and to Humble Pie, the band formed by the other former Small Faces member Steve Marriott.

Website

Performing will be the Small Fakers, Humble Lie and The Faces Experience featuring Rod Stewart tribute performer Stan Terry.

Tickets are £12.50 in advance or £15 on the door on November 6. Call 01902 401211 or see the venue's website.

Other major tributes coming up include: tomorrow (Friday) Supreme Queen tribute to Queen and Freddie Mercury, Swiss all-girl AC/DC tribute Back N Black on November 8 and Fleetwood Bac on November 21.

Although the percentage has fallen, education bosses say that is because of major changes made to both the exams and school league tables. The national average is 52.6 per cent.

The figures have been welcomed by the borough's education chief Councillor Tim Crumpton. He said: "The results this year simply can't be compared to previous years because of the major changes that were brought in.

Pleasing

"I would again congratulate our young people for their hard work and their achievements with their GCSE results.

"It is pleasing to see Dudley is still performing above the national average.

"I have every confidence in our schools that they will keep up these high standards in future years."

In Worcestershire, the figures show the number of pupils who reached the five A*-C including the basics benchmark dropped from 62.9 per cent to 57.6 per cent. In Sandwell, this year 49.8 per cent of pupils reached the standard compared with 54.1 per cent last year and in Wolverhampton, the figure dropped from 61 per cent to 45.9 per cent.

Nationally, in total, just over half or 52.6 per cent of pupils in England reached the five A*-C basics benchmark.

Sculptor's art is cut-lery above



Sculptor Edward Cartwright, aged 28, from Stourbridge, with one of his creations

THEY are normally found at home on the dining table but a talented sculptor from Stourbridge has used his creative flair to turn these everyday cutlery items into works of art.

From elaborate swans and giant bugs to metal men and metallic masks – Ed Cartwright has made it all from spoons, knives and forks.

And his eye-catching sculptures are on display in a new exhibition which has opened at the Scary Canary shop in Stour-

bridge. Mr Cartwright, aged 28, said he started his peculiar art projects when he was a student.

"I was looking for cheap resources to work with as I couldn't afford anything expensive. I started making small pieces, which are the little bugs I have crawling up the wall at the exhibition, and that led to me making more elaborate pieces.

"I still use the cutlery now because it is cheap – a lot of the cutlery used here I found in charity shops."

Town MP welcomes revival bid for theatre

AN MP has welcomed an £8 million plan to reopen Dudley Hippodrome.

Wolverhampton-based businessman Jonathan Kendrick says he could create an entertainment complex better than rival venues in Birmingham and Manchester with his plans for the iconic venue (see feature on page 6).

Dudley North MP Ian Austin said: "I grew up in Dudley and had my first job in the High Street. Like anyone else from here, I want to see new ideas to bring new investment, trade and jobs to the town.

Thriving

"In its heyday the Hippodrome brought stars like Laurel & Hardy, Bob Hope and Bing Crosby to Dudley, and I would love to see it become a thriving venue again.

"I'd also like to see the Castle opened up throughout the summer with concerts, plays and other attractions bringing thousands of extra visitors to Dudley, boosting trade and changing the town's image.

"Tourism is central to Dudley's future. That's why I will be working hard to make these plans to save the Hippodrome into a reality."

Spinal injury fear at crash

A MAN was taken to hospital with suspected spinal injuries following a three-car smash in Dudley at the weekend.

Fire crews from Dudley and Bilston attended the incident on Clarence Road in Gornal at around 9am on Sunday and removed the man from his car on a long board.

He was stabilised at the scene by paramedics and taken to Russells Hall Hospital for further checks.

No one else was injured in the accident and police launched an investigation following the incident.

Charity shop

RESIDENTS are invited to donate items for a charity event tonight (Thursday) in Kingswinford. Dudley Kidney Patients Association is holding its latest appeal for donations between 7pm and 9pm at the charity's shop at 806 High Street. Call 01384 401111 for details.

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Award as food waste feeds the animals

A RECYCLING scheme which has seen food waste from Dudley Market donated to an animal sanctuary has won a national award.

Over the past year, traders and council staff have piloted the project which has also seen tons of unwanted cardboard recycled.

Since March, unwanted food waste has gone to Brockwood Animal Sanctuary to feed Dennis the llama, ponies Molly and Leo and other animals.

Now the scheme has been recognised by the Association for Public Service Excellence, which has presented Dudley Council and traders with the Best Community and Neighbourhood Initiative award.

It came about as part of the council's plans to reduce the amount of waste that Dudley market disposes of each day and is part of the £6.7m redevelopment of the town's historic market place.

Already, more than ten tons of fruit and vegetables have been donated to more than 140 animals at the sanctuary – food which would otherwise have been thrown away.

Over the last year, 58 tons of cardboard has also been recycled.

Oh Bruvver, Joe's in town

A ROCK and roll legend who has played with Johnny Cash and supported The Beatles is heading to Dudley next month.

Joe Brown is celebrating more than 50 years in show-business, which began with his band The Bruvvers, and will bring a show to Dudley Town Hall on November 15, packed with country, folk, rock 'n' roll, and music scene anecdotes.

Culture boss Councillor Hilary Bills said: "We're really happy that Joe is coming to Dudley to perform this upbeat show."

Tickets cost £25.

Community hub

A £300,000 community centre will be built on Dudley's former North Priory estate.

Hundreds of new homes are being constructed by Keepmoat Homes.

Plans for a community centre are being drawn up as part of the Friar Gate development.

Bully backing high life on The Waterfront



Steve Bull at the Point North apartments

HE scored more than 300 goals for Wolves but now Molineux legend Steve Bull has a new goal — success in property investment.

He has bought one of six penthouse apartments being created at the top of a former office block on the Waterfront in Brierley Hill.

The 49-year-old says he intends to remain living in Wolverhampton while he rents out the new two-bedroom property.

It is one of six penthouses at the top of the former Point North site, which is being converted into a 181-apartment block.

The penthouses are priced at £124,950. Four remain up for sale, along with a third of the rest of the flats in the block. They will be ready next October as the redevelopment by Seven Capital transforms the site, which will be re-branded The Landmark.

Bully, who grew up on Moat Farm Estate in Tipton, said: "When the Waterfront first came up it was a busy, thriving place. But in recent years it's fallen away a bit. I'm hoping this project will pick the area up and see restaurants and bars return to the canal's edge."

"It's nice to be fortunate enough to be an

ex-footballer and be able to do something like this."

The former England player who started his career at Tipton Town, got involved in the scheme after Seven Capital marketing boss Andy Foote called him. Bully said: "Andy is an old friend of mine. He showed me the plans and I checked out the site. What they want to do impressed me and I liked the views from the penthouse."

The block will consist of one-bed, two-bed and penthouse flats, from £69,000 to £125,000. The building had been empty for five years since insurers Egg moved out.

Lights out as a £27m wave of cuts proposed

BURIAL fees are set to rise and street lights to be switched off after midnight in the latest round of council cuts in Dudley.

At a meeting yesterday (Wednesday) councillors were also considering streets and parks not being maintained as often and budgets for road repairs and resurfacing will also be slashed.

Finance bosses at Dudley Council have revealed proposals for £27 million of savings out of £57m of cutbacks required by 2017/18.

Finance boss Councillor Stuart Turner said he would be 'as innovative as possible' to protect key services in the borough. He has also warned that more than 300 jobs could be at risk over the next three years.

Bills

The budget proposals include turning off some street lights after midnight to reduce energy bills, saving £100,000 by 2018.

Maintenance of parks around the borough would be reduced to claw back £265,000.

Increasing burial fees is expected to bring in £520,000 in the next three years. Savings will also be made by transferring the management of the New Bradley Hall care home in Kingswinford to a private firm.

The proposals, which also include changes to youth support services and Dudley Performing Arts, was going before cabinet members at last night's meeting.

Savings of £22.9m are proposed for 2015/16, moving up to £25.3 million by 2016/17 and £27.4 million by 2017/18.

But the council has warned it faces a deficit of approaching £30m by 2017/18 if additional savings are not found.

Housing scheme reaches a milestone



Raj Shroff with Richard Baker, of Bullock Construction, Carl Larter, of Midland Heart, and Ron Sims from Dudley Council

THE construction of a £5.6 million apartment block for the homeless on the site of a former centre in Lye has reached a new milestone.

The roof has now been fitted to the new two-storey building in Gibbs Road and a topping out ceremony was held. The developer will now begin fitting out the interior of the building.

The development will offer 58 one-bedroom apartments for homeless people. Of these 24 will be clustered around communal dining and lounge

spaces for those with short term support needs. The rest will be self-contained, and are aimed at providing a stepping stone to independent living.

The centre is built by Midland Heart in partnership with Dudley Council, the Homes and Communities Agency and Bullock Construction. It is scheduled to open next spring.

The old Gibbs Road House opened in the 1960s and worked with vulnerable people from across Dudley but closed as it was deemed outdated. It

was demolished to make way for the modern development.

Carl Larter, director of assets at Midland Heart, said: "We were thrilled to have our partners join us on site to mark this significant milestone."

Raj Shroff, deputy director for care and support, said: "The new scheme will continue to reach homeless people aged 17 and over, both male and female, following referral from Dudley Council's Homeless Services."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Warning to get ready for winter

A CHARITY is urging people to check their home is ready for winter.

Age UK Dudley is calling on homeowners to check pipes, windows, roofs and gutters in a bid to avoid any mishaps during the winter. The charity says catching problems early can save time and money, and also recommended checking insurance for storm damage and burst pipes.

Elaine Panchal, from Age UK Dudley, said: "Preparation is key to protecting your home and avoiding expensive and urgent call outs when the weather changes."

Dodgeball club is aiming to expand

A DODGEBALL club in Walsall is hoping to expand and set up new groups in the Black Country.

Walsall Warriors set up in 2012 and has grown to more than 40 members.

Glyn Marston, who runs the club, is now changing its name to Black Country Knights and wants people interested in helping to set up clubs elsewhere in the Black Country to get in touch. Walsall Warriors will still function but as a junior club.

Call 07588 249358.

Autumn fair is planned at church

AN AUTUMN fair will be held at St Andrew's Church, in Bilston Street, Sedgley, on Saturday (November 8) in aid of church funds and charities.

The event from 10am to 1pm will include stalls selling Christmas gifts and cards, books, CDs and records, homemade cakes and bric-a-brac.

There will also be competitions and refreshments available.

High-rise issues on the agenda

COUNCIL tenants who live in Dudley borough high-rise properties can discuss issues relating to their estates at a meeting.

It takes place on Tuesday at Saltwells Education Centre, Bowling Green Road, Netherton.

The session is 7pm to 8.30pm, refreshments served from 6.30pm. To attend call (01384) 815168.

Poppy dancing

AN ANNUAL poppy dance will raise money for the Royal British Legion and asbestos-related diseases.

Tickets for the November 7 event Ruiton Street Hall, Dudley, are available on (01384) 457879.

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'DIP into the chopped walnuts to coat completely then stand on the baking sheet' (From a Sunday Times recipe). I fell off.

A STUDY in China suggests that babies born from frozen embryos are more sociable than those conceived naturally. Is it mere coincidence that Eskimos are famed for their hospitality?

TOLD you so. Five months ago I wrote that the figure of 888,246 ceramic poppies planted at the Tower of London, to be sold for service charities, was too small and that "everyone who wants a ceramic poppy should be able to buy one." The alternative, I suggested was "a limited edition creating an artificial shortage and being sold online for obscene profits." Sure enough, all 888,246 poppies – one for every British warrior killed in the First World War – have now been snapped up. Thousands of folk will be disappointed. Watch out for the profiteering to begin.

SCIENTISTS in San Diego did a sneaky thing. They questioned elderly folk about how much booze they consumed in a week – and then checked the answers against the empty bottles in their bins. You will not be surprised to learn that the number of empties was more than the old 'uns admitted to. It is high time another group of scientists examined the phenomenon noticed by so many of us. If you leave empty bottles in a bin for more than a few days, they start breeding.

RESEARCHERS in the US city of Boston claim a pint of beer a day may improve a man's fertility. But don't overdo it. As Shakespeare warned us, long before Boston was even founded, alcohol "provokes the desire but takes away the performance."

If you wanted to make a new Dad's Army movie, no-one could hope for a better cast than Tom Courtney, Michael Gambon, Blake Harrison and the others now assembled on the set at Bridlington. The real question is why anyone would want to make a new Dad's Army movie when the original (1971) is perfect.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

'Moonwalking' witness contempt case dropped

TWO witnesses will not face prosecution after a trial collapsed when they made a video of one of them doing a 'moonwalk' dance while waiting to give evidence.

But the pair were rebuked by a judge, who told them they had been 'extremely stupid'. Shea Taylor and Aaron Whittle were waiting to take to the stand in the trial of two men in connection with an alleged assault at the Tenth Lock pub in Brierley Hill. During that time Taylor recorded a video of Whittle doing a Michael Jackson style 'moonwalk' dance, then shared it on social network Facebook.

Luke Walker, aged 26, of Gayfield Avenue, Brierley Hill, who was convicted of killing his girlfriend in Crete in 2010, was on trial with Luke Seeley, 26, of Channon Drive, Brierley Hill, but the case was dropped after the video was discovered.

At Wolverhampton Crown Court last week Judge John Warner said: "What you two admitted doing was an extremely stupid thing, even though it was in the privacy of the witness room. It was against the law of taking pictures or videos in a court."

"What you did made you liable for prosecution for contempt of court. If the contempt of court had been proved, it normally means the person involved gets locked up. What you did was one of the reasons why the case was abandoned by the prosecution."

By Jon Pritchard

"I have reflected on this and given your ages and that there was nothing sinister about what you did, the matter should not go further."

After the case had been dropped, Taylor said they made the film because they were bored. He added: "We were both laughing. There were 17 conversations about the film on Facebook. I did not know I was not allowed to do it. It was a joke."

The case against Walker and Seeley was dropped as the Crown Prosecution Service said the witnesses' action undermined the case. Walker is on bail after he was convicted of causing grievous bodily harm to 20-year-old Chelsea Hyndman, leading to her death four years ago. He was sentenced to eight years prison but the sentence was suspended pending appeal.

Creepy nights at museum



Worker John Bailey at the hardware store with a bug trap that forms part of the museum's trail

FROM scary spiders to repulsive rats – all sorts of creepy creatures are awaiting visitors to the Black Country Living Museum.

There will be plenty of spooky goings on at the attraction which is running a Horrible Black Country Histories trail until Sunday.

There will also be two Halloween Nights events on Friday and Saturday.

The trail will allow visitors to follow a route around the museum site to hunt for all things gruesome.

Staff said people can 'enter into hovels, privvys and find out about the medicinal leeches, demon beetles and night soil men that haunt the Black Country's past'.

Youngsters can also banish boredom with traditional street games including hopscotch and skipping.

To finish the day they can visit the Limelight Cinema where family friendly cartoons will be playing.

Tickets for the Halloween Nights cost £15.95 for adults, £12.75 for concessions and £7.95 for children.

Visit www.bclm.com/events

Premiere for youth film on exploiters

A YOUTH group in Dudley is celebrating the success of a short film created by them to highlight sexual exploitation.

'Anybody's Child', made by Chatback, was shown at the Showcase Cinema in Dudley last week in front of 200 invited guests.

The film stars young people alongside Black Country actress Josie Lawrence and aims to raise awareness of how easily exploitation can happen, and how young people can recognise the warning signs.

Shocking

Councillor Timothy Crompton, children's services boss, said: "I was blown away by the professionalism and stunning performances of the young people."

"The film highlights this shocking crime and depicts the warning signs."

"I am extremely proud of everyone involved and would like to thank Chatback for producing such an amazing film which I am sure will become an invaluable and effective tool in schools."

TV and stage star Josie, originally from Old Hill, said: "Chatback is a group of fantastic young people who, aided by the brilliant Chatback staff, create the most imaginative and unique productions."

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Bosses are worried by lack of skills

WHILE the UK as a whole enjoyed the biggest-ever drop in annual unemployment, there are fears from the business community that figures have stalled in the West Midlands.

Unemployment in the region has fallen by 50,000 over the last year, to 207,000 for the period from June to August, but it only fell by 1,000 from the previous quarter's figures.

This has prompted concern that a 'lack of joined-up thinking' is stalling employment, said Tim Pile, president of Birmingham Chamber of Commerce.

"The region is currently second only to the North East in terms of unemployment and national figures have dropped to six per cent," he said.

"While the previous trend for the West Midlands has shown a positive downward figure, today's announcement represents a stalling of that trend. The key problem for the region is a lack of joined-up thinking."

"Our members tell us that there is a shortage of professional skills, in particular, ecologists, risk managers, analysts and transport modellers. Their answer has been to take on graduates and apprentices that they can train on the job. More needs to be done to bring business and education together to tackle the lack of skills issue."

Car tracking device places getaway driver at robberies

A GETAWAY driver was snared for his part in two robberies by a tracker fitted to the car he was driving.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard that Remayo Stirling, who had been committing robberies since the age of 13, had actually been due in court on unrelated matters on the day the offences took place.

Stirling, of Manor Road, Smethwick, was sentenced to six years in custody when he appeared last week. The 20-year-old had admitted conspiracy to commit robbery at an earlier hearing.

Mr David Oscroft, prosecuting, said a tracking device fitted to the Mercedes hire car he was using pinpointed its location at two store raids that took place in the space of an hour.

Betting

The first offence was just before 9pm on March 12, when his two male accomplices burst into the William Hill betting shop in Oldbury Road, Rowley Regis. But the robbers left empty-handed after the manager managed to push them back and he and a colleague escaped to a 'safe haven' behind a locked door.

Just before 10pm the same night, two men went in the Co-op store in Dudley Road, Tividale, and threatened a staff member, demanding money from the till. They snatched £165, six bottles of spirits and cigare

By Mark Andrews

ttes. Again, Stirling did not actually take part in the robbery but CCTV showed he had been in shop shortly before when he appeared to be carrying out a reconnaissance.

Mr Oscroft said a resident had also contacted police after becoming suspicious about the white Mercedes car that Stirling was driving.

"The car, which belonged to a rental company, had been lent to the defendant's brother," he said. "The car had a tracker, which enabled police to trace the car."

Stirling had previous robbery convictions and was on bail charged with possessing an offensive weapon at the time of the offences.

Mr Andrew Baker, for Stirling, said his client was just 19 at the time of the robbery. "He has a dreadful set of previous convictions," admitted Mr Baker.

Golf club lake to combat flooding risk



Taking a look at water features on the 18th hole at Brandhall is club professional Carl Yates

NEW water features have been created on an 18-hole golf course in Oldbury in a bid to help prevent potential flooding at a housing estate.

Streams, pools and a lake have been installed around Brandhall Golf Course as part of the scheme.

It was linked to work beginning on more than 100 homes on the site of the former Sandwell College campus in Pound Road.

The project was drawn up to reduce the risk of flooding to the properties, being built on an area classified as a flood zone.

Developer Bovis Homes, which was granted planning permission to build 117 homes in March 2010, has worked with golf club managers on the scheme.

A spokesman for the company said: "Bovis Homes has worked to address the historic flooding issues that have affected many existing local residents."

"A flood alleviation scheme has been incorporated into our proposals that involves the diversion of several local watercourses into this new lake within Brandhall Golf Course."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Car wash scheme is rejected again

PLANS for a car wash on a pub car park in Halesowen have been thrown out for a second time.

Dudley Council refused a revived proposal by Qamil Alhaj for the business on the car park of the Full Moon, Hurst Green Road.

Officers said the car wash would result in 'unacceptable levels' of noise and disturbance. They also said insufficient information was given over off-street parking. A previous proposal for the car wash was refused on similar grounds.

Councillor Karen Shakespear said: "I am a great advocate of small businesses and will happily support people going it alone but that can never be at the expense of local residents."

Trust ready to take on garden project

CAMPAIGNERS will take ownership of an 18th century walled garden at the heart of Leasowes Park next month.

Members of Halesowen Abbey Trust managed to raise £20,000 within 12 weeks to fund the purchase of the Grade I-listed historic garden in Halesowen, which they want to restore and open to the public. The final funding has been secured after councillors agreed to boost the project with a £5,000 grant.

Trust leader Mick Freer said: "We should takeover by early November when we can start to look at what work needs to be done."

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews

THE landlord of my local insists these are genuine answers to a popular Black Country pub quiz:

(Q) Name the capital of the Republic of Ireland, beginning with the letter 'D'

(A) Belfast

(Q) Which group of islands are sometimes known as Malvinas?

(A) Boyzone.

Any more entries gratefully received...

A COUPLE of weeks ago, some of you may remember that I made a prediction regarding the new series of The Apprentice. I ventured that, given that this year's series had a record 20 candidates, and was scheduled to run for just 14 episodes, that we should not be too surprised if the honourable Lord Sugar would lose his paddy from time to time and spontaneously fire contestants on a whim.

By the end of the second week, five candidates have got the bullet, and the ennobled one is firing like Bodie out of the professionals. So just call me Confucius.

And here is another prediction. Sometimes during the series, Lord Sugar will turn up at the crack of dawn in order to treat us to the sight of the dishevelled-looking hopefuls being briefed in their pyjamas and odd socks.

The Apprentice is now in its 10th series, and those taking part are supposed to be some of the sharpest and shrewdest young minds in the country. Has it never crossed any of their minds that it might be a good idea to keep a shirt and trousers by the side of the bed, just in case?

TOM Jones is offering fans the opportunity to buy advanced tickets for concert dates, right up until he reaches the ripe old age of 103.

Some people have suggested this might be a bit presumptuous, and I tend to agree. Selling tickets a year in advance is always a risky business.

GIVEN that we are constantly told we are sitting on an economic timebomb caused by the growing health needs of an ageing population, whoever thought it would be a good idea to offer GPs a double-glazing-style bonus for diagnosing Alzheimer's?

MOTHER-of-three Michelle Hall claims she is allergic to Simon Cowell.

"As soon as he walked on stage wearing those trousers pulled up to his chest, grinning demonically and winking, I felt a sweat coming on."

Indeed, so severe is her condition, that the 43-year-old claims she screams, sweats and vomits every time the X-Factor comes on television.

Get to the back of the queue, love.



New proposal — ROK chairman Jonathan Kendrick



Campaigners to save the theatre outside the venue



Ken Dodd has offered to help save the venue

£8m scheme to save Hippodrome

ALEX ROSS looks at the ambitious plans to host concerts and sports events at an historic theatre venue

A BUSINESSMAN has unveiled his £8million plan to reopen Dudley Hippodrome, claiming he would create an entertainment complex better than rival venues in Birmingham and Manchester.

Jonathan Kendrick, co-founder of The ROK Group, says he will create a multi-purpose venue with moving stages to host a wide range of events from pop concerts to snooker competitions.

His proposal also includes an exclusive 'unlimited' auditorium, which would mean people unable to make shows could watch performances via a per-per-view Hippodrome mobile app.

Fortune

Mr Kendrick made his fortune selling mobile phone services and a beverage and health and beauty company.

The Wolverhampton-based businessman has pledged to work alongside campaign group Friends of Dudley Hippodrome on the ambitious project.

Campaigners said they were encouraged after talks with the ROK group following a joint tour of the Castle Hill venue this week.

Mr Kendrick, aged 56, was shown around the inside of the venue by council officials.

Dudley Council has already received a 28-page proposal for the site from his company Events That Rok.

His father Vic Kendrick owned the venue in the 1960s, attracting the likes of Walker Brothers and The Kinks to its stage.



A businessman says Dudley Hippodrome could be a major venue again

Mr Kendrick said: "I think Dudley is a diamond in the rough, where outside London do you have a great art deco zoo, a castle and a museum based on the industrial revolution with superb motorway access?"

"It really is unique and with a new Hippodrome we could create a major visitor attraction, better than Manchester and better than Birmingham."

He explained: "Our plan is to strip it out and create a multi-purpose venue, so it's not just for shows. It will accommodate many different events and we

plan to put in moving stages so we can host any live performance.

"Personally I hope to stage musicals, live sporting events like our snooker and top rated chart bands who can stream their performances worldwide."

The auditorium would be remodelled for a moving stage and seats to provide traditional sloped seating or a flat floor area for concerts with a standing audience. There would also be conferences and weddings at the venue.

But Mr Kendrick, who was in the Top

50 Rich List for Birmingham this year, said he was becoming frustrated at the speed of progress.

He said: "It has been frustrating. We submitted our proposals months ago and met with the zoo owner to agree a strategy to solve the car parking."

Even now we're only just being allowed in to view the premises.

"We are also aware of quite a bad asbestos issue that needs to be solved."

"Our patience as a company is running out so we are now looking for some action and decisions from the council. We represent the most viable future for the Dudley Hippodrome."

Friends of Dudley Hippodrome group member, Gaz Sawers, known as Black Country Gaz, welcomed the ROK group's plans.

"I like it as they have talked to us about the plans," he said. "People need to think outside the box."

Genuine

"It is the first time that I have met Mr Kendrick to talk to them about this. They seemed very genuine."

The campaign to save the theatre has been backed by veteran entertainer Ken Dodd, who has offered to perform a fundraiser to save the venue, which Dudley Council were prepared to see demolished.

Dudley Council councillor Judy Foster gave both the Friends and the ROK group until the end of October to submit revised business plans to reopen and operate the venue.

The council have put plans for the demolition of the theatre on hold.

But Councillor Foster says a decision on the Hippodrome's future must be taken by the end of this year to avoid further deterioration of the building.

She added: "The council has been working with The ROK Group over the last few weeks to arrange a date for them to access the building and meet with council officers."

WEEK IN POLITICS

with Daniel Wainwright

ED Miliband has made a wise choice bringing Pat McFadden back to his front bench as shadow Europe minister.

The Paisley-born MP for Wolverhampton South East knows only too well about campaigns to keep families of nations together. He went up north to urge his fellow Scots to stay in the UK. And now he's making the hard-headed, patriotic case for the UK to stay in the EU.

While Labour is sticking firmly to holding a referendum only in the event of a transfer of power to Brussels, Lichfield Tory MP Michael Fabricant thinks one is 'inevitable'. The big question is going to be who will lead the various sides.

Even Eurosceptics on the Tory benches won't want to concede the 'out' campaign to Nigel Farage. Nor would UKIP want the Conservatives they've been fighting against to carry the standard on their core policy.

As for the 'in' campaign, should it eventually happen, Mr McFadden is a good choice, if not to lead it, then to be very prominent within it. He's someone who brings with him a wealth of experience and connections with the business world and can talk up the economic impact of an 'out' vote.

This is a Labour MP, from the party that wants to hit the bankers hard for their part in the financial crisis, who was also able to get the former RBS boss Stephen Hester to visit Wolverhampton and talk to business people.

Those contacts, incidentally, came in handy when he and fellow Wolverhampton MP Paul Uppal were campaigning separately to get the Barbara Hepworth Rock Form statue put back in the Mander Centre. RBS owns the statue.

It will be up to Pat McFadden to make the most of this new role. The Europe question is a complicated one. In the wrong hands this shadow brief is a poisoned chalice.

The Conservatives are trying to not only hold on to seats they won in 2010 but gain others to give David Cameron the majority that eluded him.

Even so, it is probably beyond ambitious to expect to win in Warley, part of Labour stronghold Sandwell where there is just a single Conservative councillor out of 72.

The Tories quietly merged the former Warley Conservative Association with others to form a Sandwell Federation. Tory high command says it was a democratic decision taken locally to merge the groups.

Some former members are not happy. They want their association back. Ewart Johnson is one of those. He's stood for election 20 times and never won once. Whatever your political stance, that's real dedication to the cause.

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Council did not heed care home warning

HAVING spent the last four years as a member of the New Bradley Hall Action Group fighting to save that from closure, I was saddened to read about the closure of the Homestead and Knoll residential care homes.

Having been through exactly the same appalling experience myself with my own loved one, my first reaction was to think what could I do to help those desperately upset relatives and residents stay in their home.

After a great deal of thought, the answer was very little... nothing.

This is a perfect example of the

scenario that we as an action group stressed over and over again to the caring Socialists who run Dudley Council of what would be happening to more and more privately run care homes following the demise of the Southern Cross Healthcare group. The writing was on the wall but did our councillors listen, no. We were told they were just a one-off and safeguards were in place.

We tried over and over again to try and get our representatives of the people to understand why every local authority should have at least one council owned care home to act as a safety net

for the most weak, the most vulnerable and the least well-off in our society.

It might be better for the council, because they have not only saved a year on year expenditure but they have also now been able to wash their hands of any responsibility for looking after our most vulnerable. It's not the best for the rest of us.

It's not too late for New Bradley Hall, so let's hope that this is a wake up call for our so-called caring council. I'm not holding my breath.

PHIL VANES
New Bradley Hall Action Group

SVR day out was a real treat

ON Sunday we went on a birthday treat to Kidderminster where we boarded the Severn Valley train The Ventura.

What a surprise and super treat it was, everything was organised perfectly.

The dining car had been beautifully restored and tables were laid with snowy white starched cloths and napkins. The meal was delicious and served by waiters and waitresses smartly dressed in period costume.

It is hard to believe that they are all volunteers and not actually trained in the art of silver service.

The meal is all freshly prepared in the restaurant car kitchen, which you can look around after your meal if you wish.

The scenery was wonderful as was our bird's eye view of the elephants (baby one too) and antelope in Kidderminster's super safari park. We had a wonderful and memorable day.

P WILLIAMS
Kingswinford

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
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Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

E-MAIL

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Become a 'pain killer' for arthritis research

ON behalf of Arthritis Research UK and people living with arthritis I would like to thank everyone in the West Midlands who 'became a pain killer' during National Arthritis Week (12-19 October). Arthritis holds 10 million people in the grip of excruciating pain, including myself. This pain can be invisible and too often dismissed as minor aches and pains. In reality arthritis is the biggest cause of pain and disability in the UK, affecting people of all ages.

Arthritis Research UK believes everyone has a right to live a pain-free life. This year the charity highlighted the impact of pain and asked you to 'become a pain killer', either for yourself or a loved one, to help win the battle against arthritis. Many of you did this by completing the National Arthritis Survey, finding more about pain management or attending a fundraising event. The charity's work will not be possible without the public's continued support.

There's still time to fill out the National Arthritis Survey which will help the charity understand the disease and its effects on people's everyday lives. To find out more about the work of Arthritis Research UK please visit: www.nationalarthritisweek.org website.

CATHERINE MANNING
Arthritis Research UK

Schemes only add to congestion

SO, thousands to be spent on road improvements at High Street Pensnett. Can I just say before any money is spent, or wasted, can the planners take a good close look at the traffic improvements on the new Brierley Hill bypass? The think-tank have placed seven sets of traffic lights, including pedestrian lights, and now it is far quicker to go through Brierley Hill High Street, the very place intended to have less traffic.

The placing of traffic lights at High Oak/High Street and Tansey Green Road sounds like another idea that is doomed to fail. All traffic lights do is cause build ups. At rush hour it will only have one effect and that is tail backs.

I suspect Dudley Council have too much white paint. It seems they like placing it at T-junctions to make mini islands, causing unnecessary frustration where traffic flowed with no problems.

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Call for deal on 'Greater Brum' by Christmas

COUNCIL leaders in the Black Country have given Birmingham an ultimatum over plans for a combined authority — sign it by Christmas or a deal will be sought with South Staffordshire and Telford and Wrekin instead.

The councils want to team up on transport, marketing and regeneration to attract investment from big businesses

By Daniel Wainwright

and Government. But there is concern about the name Greater Birmingham being used amid fears it will destroy the individual identity of the Black Country.

Councillor Darren Cooper, leader of Sandwell Council and chairman of the Black Country joint committee, said the four boroughs would go elsewhere unless Birmingham City Council could agree on a committee by Christmas. He stressed that Wolverhampton, Walsall, Sandwell and Dudley would not lose their individual identities.

He said: "This has gone on long enough. There are combined authorities in other parts of the country and we're being left behind."

"If this isn't done by Christmas then the Black Country will look elsewhere — South Staffordshire, Telford and Wrekin and other

conurbations — to work together."

The urgency is because of the General Election next May, with councillors keen to have a structure in place ready to start seeking funding from the next Government.

Councillor Brian Edwards, leader of South Staffordshire Council, is not keen on the idea of a combined authority. He said: "No-one's spoken to me about this yet. We already work closely with the Black Country. But we're happy being part of Staffordshire."

Sarah Norman, incoming chief executive of Dudley Council, has been tasked with building relationships with other organisations as part of moves towards a combined authority.

Feeling app-y with new council service



Councillor Hilary Bills with street cleaners Brian Rollinson and Derek Burton to launch the new smartphone app REPORTING issues to Dudley Council has been brought into the 21st century with the launch of a new mobile app.

The application allows people to send in pictures of potholes, dumped rubbish, faulty street lights and graffiti and also to notify the council of any housing repairs that they feel are needed.

Users will also be able to find out the latest news and information and search for new jobs and latest train and bus times.

The Dudley Council app has been launched as part of the authority's love your community campaign.

Technology boss Councillor Stuart Turner said: "Through our work as a community council and via our love your community campaign, we are always looking at the best ways to communicate with our residents."

"This app is another way that people can find out information and get engaged with the council."

It is free to download from the Apple Store for iPhone users and on the Google Playstore for Android users. Search 'Dudley Council' to find it.

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Civic awards presented to the unsung heroes

UNSUNG heroes of the community in Dudley borough have been honoured at a special ceremony.

A teenager involved in a serious road crash who has gone on to help the air ambulance and a woman with more than 30 years service to the Girl Guides were among those recognised in the 12th Dudley Volunteer Awards.

The ceremony took place at Brierley Hill Civic Hall with almost 300 people attending. Awards were presented by community and business leaders to the winners of nine categories.

Wellbeing

Joshua Dudley, from Lye, received the Young Volunteer of the Year Award from John Cook, of Amblecote Christian Centre. After being involved in a life-threatening collision with a car, the 13-year-old cyclist was flown to hospital by a Midlands Air Ambulance helicopter. Josh has so far raised over £36,000 for the Midlands Air Ambulance Service.

The Business Supporting the Community award was won by Paul Billingsley, of Accord Steel Cladding in Kingswinford, presented by Scott Jones of Brierley Hill Copthorne Hotel. Shamim Akhtar of Direxions, in Stourbridge, picked up the Community Action Award from Dudley sector Chief Superintendent Chris Johnson.

The Gordon Lindsay Award for long service to voluntary work was presented to Heather Cruickshanks of Stourbridge for over 36 years service to the Girl Guide movement.

The Healthy Communities Award was presented by Paul Maubach of Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group to Springboard Exercise Volunteers, part of Age UK Dudley in Brierley Hill. Judges for the Wellbeing Award decided to share it between Heavens



Mike Abrahams with John Birchill, father of Joshua Dudley, the winner of the young volunteer of the year award

Kitchen Volunteers and Daryll Garland. Paul Maubach, chief accountable officer at Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group, made the presentation.

John Cheadle from the Transport Group Volunteers, who maintain the vintage vehicles at the Black Country Living Museum collected the Arts and Heritage Award from deputy council

leader Councillor Peter Lowe. Councillor Tim Crumpton presented the Children and Families Award to Gary James, a fundraiser for children's charities. John Cheadle, a table tennis player from Pensnett, was awarded the Sporting Champion title, presented by John Polychronakis, chief executive at Dudley Council.



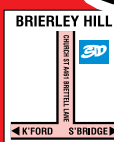
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Idea aims to tackle gridlock at island

A 'HAMBURGER' island is the preferred option to ease traffic jams around the notoriously congested Birchley Island, council bosses have announced.

This is despite many motorists favouring a scheme to widen lanes at the roundabout in Oldbury, near junction two of the M5.

Plans for a multi-million pound overhaul of the island, which is used by around 92,000 drivers a day, were revealed last year after it emerged that surrounding roads were reaching capacity at peak times.

Queues

Highways officials claimed congestion was hitting businesses, public transport and creating long queues of traffic trying to reach the M5. Four options were devised to bring improvements to the island during a consultation.

The scheme preferred by the council would see changes to lanes and extending Wolverhampton Road on a new road through the roundabout to create a two-way 'hamburger' island. That could cost around

By Simon Stone

£12.7 million. The majority of people were in favour of a proposal, costing £12.9m, which would create a traffic junction similar to that at Burnt Tree on the Dudley and Sandwell border, which would involve the widening of lanes.

But in a report by Councillor Ian Jones, the council says that option would fail to ease congestion and journey times.

The authority has revealed it will pursue the 'hamburger' island with the road going across the island next to the sub-station.

The report said: "The strategic impact of a through-road, which reduces journey times and delays would be a positive benefit for businesses and commuters."

Brave Josh helps the air ambulance



Brave boy — Josh Dudley, 13, recovering from a serious cycling accident with his father John Birchill

A TEENAGER who suffered severe injuries after being knocked off his bike has been helping to raise money and awareness for the Midland Air Ambulance.

Brave Josh Dudley, aged 13, was left fighting for his life after the crash in Stourbridge in April 2011.

He was revived by his father at the scene and spent nearly three months in a coma at Birmingham Children's Hospital.

Despite doctors fearing he would be forced to spend the rest of his life in a wheelchair, he has managed to learn to walk again.

Josh, a pupil at Penn Hall School in Wolverhampton, and his family have been using his miraculous story to raise awareness for the life-saving work of the air ambulance.

Josh has now been honoured for his dedication to the cause after being named Dudley's Young Volunteer of the Year. Josh's father John Birchill, aged 37, said: "He still has some brain damage and memory trouble but he is doing well."

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Bomber Brown's statue foundations being laid

THE foundations for the statue in honour former West Bromwich Albion striker Tony 'Bomber' Brown have been laid outside the club's Hawthorns ground.

Stonemasons have been working on the area where the statue will sit, outside the main entrance of East Stand.

It is being created to honour the goalscoring exploits of the man affectionately known by the Albion faithful as 'Bomber' - who scored more than 270 goals in his 20-year stint at the club.

The statue will be unveiled on November 6 at 2pm, and the club are planning to release a small number of free tickets so fans can attend. Martin Swain, spokesman for the club, said Albion are doing their utmost to make sure the statue is put in place in secret before the unveiling.

Secret

He said: "We are keeping it a secret as to when the statue will go in, but work is being done on the base. We are in the process of offering a certain number of tickets for fans who want to witness the unveiling."

Mr Swain said there will be a small ceremony at The Hawthorns, to be attended by a number of Albion legends, prior to the unveiling. Ex-managers Ron Atkinson, Bryan Robson and Johnny Giles will be present, alongside former players Cyril Regis and Graham Williams. Commentator John Motson, who is good friends with Brown, and commented on his goal which won promotion for Albion in 1976 will also be there.

Between 1961 and 1981, Brown, who joined Albion as a schoolboy, made 720 appearances, scoring 279 goals. He also helped the club win the League Cup in 1966, the FA Cup in 1968 and promotion back to the top flight in 1976 before being part of club's hugely exciting team of the late 1970s.

The statue was set to be unveiled earlier this year, but the date was moved back due to a clash with the FA, who unveiled a statue of England's first black footballer, Arthur Wharton, last month.

Tributes to brave Margot



Inspirational - little Margot with her mother Vicki who campaigned to raise awareness of the illness

HEARTFELT tributes have been paid to little Margot Martini, who lost her brave fight with leukaemia this week.

The inspirational two-year-old and her family's campaign to raise awareness of her illness touched the hearts of so many people.

Her parents said she died peacefully at home on Monday, surrounded by those who loved her.

More than 1,600 tribute messages have been left on the Team Margot

Facebook page, which has almost 20,000 members.

One member, Sophie Hart, said she had the pleasure of meeting Margot while working as a student nurse. She said: "Even at a young age her personality was one of a kind."

Joanna Clough added: "Beautiful Margot will not be forgotten."

Her parents Yaser and Vicki, from Essington, broke the tragic news in a post online.

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'Crazee' time as legends at Robin



Roy Wood at the Robin 2 Club in Bilston

THREE of glam rock's most celebrated bands are set to take the stage in the Black Country over the space of a couple of 'crazee' months.

Slade, Roy Wood and Sweet will all be appearing at the Robin 2 in Bilston before the end of the year. Between them they have clocked up more than 100 years on the circuit,



Andy Scott of Sweet will be taking to the stage

Three of glam rock's most celebrated bands are soon to take the stage as TIM SPIERS explains

gracing some of the world's biggest stages in front of sell-out crowds of screaming fans.

These days the bands are a rare sight on stages in the UK, but the Robin's owners managed to persuade them all to return to the venue for a trio of highly-anticipated gigs.

First up is Roy Wood on November 18. Backed by his rock and roll band, the Brummie will perform many of the hits he notched up during stints with Wizzard, The Move and ELO, including I Can Hear The Grass Grow, Flowers In The Rain, Blackberry Way and the evergreen festive rocker I Wish It Could Be Christmas Everyday.

On December 18 the Black Country's very own Slade will be back in town for what is expected to be a sell out show.

Anniversary

Featuring diminutive drummer Don Powell and guitarist Dave Hill, the band will rock their way through a set of classics including Get Down and Get With It, Coz I Luv You, Look Wot You Dun, Take Me Back 'Ome, Mama Weer All Crazee Now and Cum On Feel The Noize. Support comes from 4Q.

Sweet will come to the Mount Pleasant venue on December 22 with a special show to celebrate the 40th anniversary of hit single Teenage Rampage.

Led by Andy Scott, singer and multi-instrumentalist from the classic line-up, the band will perform their trademark crowd pleasers including Love is like Oxygen, Wig Wam Bam, Little Willy, Blockbuster, Ballroom Blitz and of course Teen-



Dave Hill will be bringing Slade back to Robin 2 after a break

age Rampage. Robin 2 spokesman Mike Hamblett said he was looking forward to welcoming the bands, all of whom have previously played the venue.

He said: "I am very proud to host these three major players from the 70s glam rock period. Slade play very few UK gigs these days, while Roy Wood has played only twice in the country this year.

"It's the same with Sweet. They

are all friends and thankfully we managed to persuade them all to come and play the Robin again. They have been at it for years but all of them have managed to maintain big fan bases.

"These great bands really know how to put on a stunning show."

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Council backs charity for young homeless



Mayor Councillor Margaret Aston, Rachael Taylor from YMCA Black Country and Councillor Richard Body with supporters

A CAMPAIGN to help homeless teenagers in the Black Country has been launched by Dudley Council.

The authority is backing YMCA Black Country Group's work to increase the number of caring homes offering support to youngsters in the area.

The Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Margaret Aston showed her backing with a civic reception for the charity to raise awareness of their work.

The charity offers YMCA Open Door

which currently has 80 households listed across the Black Country as hosts for homeless young people.

Support

The council and charity are now coming together to call on more people to support the work by becoming hosts.

The council is also leading by example, through Councillor Richard Body, who is a registered host with the charity.

Councillor Aston said: "Supporting young homeless people in the area is essential and we hope we can help

raise awareness of their need to increase fundraising and increase the number of hosts they have willing to take part."

Steve Clay, chief executive of YMCA Black Country Group said: "We are extremely grateful to Dudley Council for showing this support of the work we are doing."

"There are many homeless teenagers who need our support."

Anyone interested in the project can contact host co-ordinator Rachael Taylor on 0121 524 1974.

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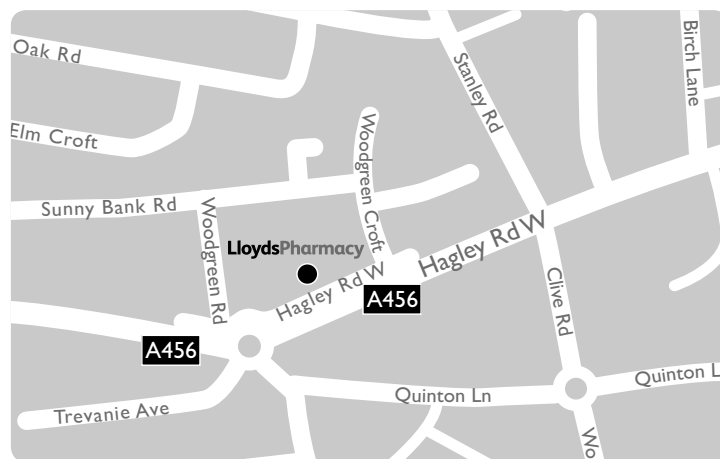
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Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environment and culture, Diva Sharon Bishop, Dave Cole as Elvis and from event sponsors Sanders and Co Mark Taman and Valerie Truelove

FIREWORKS will light the sky to the sound of some of the biggest names in rock and pop during this year's Himley Park bonfire.

Thousands of visitors are expected to descend on the attraction on the Dudley-South Staffordshire border for the annual extravaganza on November 8.

The event will have a 'diva and dudes' theme and will feature music from the likes of Beyonce, Whitney Houston, Michael Jackson, David Guetta, Jessie J, James Brown and Adele. Gates will open at 4.30pm and Heart FM will be entertaining the crowd from 6.30pm. The giant bonfire will be lit at 7.45pm with the fireworks spectacular at 8.30pm.

Jobcentres go paperless

OLD-FASHIONED dole queues have been consigned to the past as Jobcentres in the West Midlands undergo a digital revolution to go paperless.

Specially-designed computers which bring all services into one device are to be installed at Jobcentres right across the country.

The changes have already been implemented at a number of West Midlands branches such as those in Halesowen, Birmingham, and Sutton Coldfield.

More than 700 sites across Britain are being digitally transformed thanks to these computers and around 23,000 electronic signing pads. The electronic signing pads will be appearing in branches from this month, with it set to be rolled out by Spring next year.

Making the process of signing on paperless will save more than £1 million a year, increase security and reduce fraud.

Minister for Employment, Esther McVey, said: "Every day, Jobcentres across the country are helping people into work, contributing to record falls in unemployment."

"But as the economy grows and the jobs market are changing, so are the Jobcentres."

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'Alarming' increase in animals abandoned

ALMOST 1,500 animals have been found abandoned in the West Midlands so far this year, figures have revealed.

The RSPCA said it was seeing an 'alarming' increase in the number of abandoned animals, with the West Midlands the fourth worst area in the country.

There were 1,428 animals abandoned in the area between January 1 and October 1, with London and Greater Manchester topping the table.

Nationally, the society has been called out to deal with 29,770 reports of abandoned animals this year and is expecting about 140,000 calls in November and December alone. It means 50,000 animals will need help between now and Christmas.

Vigilant

RSPCA Midlands superintendent Kelly Rivers said staff and volunteers have seen an alarming increase in animals being abandoned across England and Wales and expect the situation to get worse over the winter months.

She said: "Even in a nation of animal lovers, there are thousands of people out there who don't care about their pets at all. In fact, some literally treat them like rubbish."

"Worse still, holidays like Christmas can lead to an increase in abandonments as some people choose to get rid of their pets rather than pay for them to be looked after while they are on holiday."

"Money may be spent on holidays and Christmas presents rather than seeking vet attention for ill or newborn animals, so they are dumped. It's bad enough when we find a box of kittens wrapped in blankets on our doorstep with a note, but now people are deliberately dumping their animals in out of the way places - like bins, skips or on waste ground - and leaving them to an unknown fate."

The charity is urging people to stay vigilant and alert staff if they notice boxes, bins or bags that could contain animals.

Golden couple still in step



With their wedding picture - all smiles as Patricia and Stuart Dalby celebrate their golden anniversary

THEIR eyes met across the dance floor as teenagers - and they have been dancing arm in arm ever since.

Golden couple Stuart and former Halesowen lecturer Patricia Dalby have celebrated their 50-year marriage milestone.

It was on a night out with their respective friends that the couple, both now 72, first met. Mr Dalby worked as a designer at several big carpet companies. Meanwhile, Mrs Dalby trained to be a secretary and

worked at the National Coal Board based at Himley Hall before joining Brierley Hill Council.

The couple, who live in Stourbridge, tied the knot at St Peter's Church, in Pedmore. Mrs Dalby eventually trained to become a lecturer, teaching at Halesowen College for 28 years. Mr Dalby worked for Birmingham Museum, rising to become a project manager.

They have two children and five grandchildren.



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18TV Anne a diamond – so is club

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Halesowen Chronicle

Shareshill WI

FIFTY members celebrated the WI's diamond anniversary with a three-course dinner at Shugborough Hall. Catering staff were thanked for the wonderful meal.

President Margaret Beddard then welcomed members, especially youngest member Kim and oldest member Dulcie who will be 90 years old in December.

Before the festivities began the president told members that the Shareshill Craft Group together with Shareshill Church hosted a Macmillan Coffee event which raised £405.20.

At the November 22 meeting, Kerri from Essington Craft Centre will demonstrate how to make a wreath from scraps of fabric.

The darts team are on a winning streak and have won their last three matches.

Eleven members had a lovely day at the Autumn Council Meeting when the speaker was Police Commissioner Matthew Ellis. After lunch Anne Diamond entertained with tales of her life as a journalist and television presenter.

Chairman Denise Moreton thanked the WI for the beautiful flower arrangements provided by Carol Hood and then announced she was standing down after 10 years in office. She was given a standing ovation.

The beautiful celebration cake was provided by longest-serving member of 58 years Margaret Matthews who was unable to attend as she was in hospital recovering from a fall.

Advice on winter hanging baskets

Ladies go potty for painting task

Wulfrunian Ladies WI

AFTER a hugely successful weekend at the Bantock Park 40s weekend, the committee was upbeat about the first subsequent meeting.

First, there was a huge thank you to all those who contributed to the 40s weekend.

Two ladies from the Haven centre for the care of women and children who were the victims of domestic violence, came to speak to members, explaining their work and explaining how the council's funding had been cut and asking us for any help in the way of toiletries which are given to women in welcome packs.

Donations of shampoo, shower gel, hand cream, toothbrushes etc are all very welcome. Their talk was extremely enlightening and how domestic

abuse occurs across all barriers, age, race, classes and happens to one in four women. No one group is immune from abuse.

All members were given an opportunity to paint their own pottery. Janet Crook from Penguin Pottery brought blank unglazed pottery in several forms, Christmas decorations, small dishes and owl shapes among them which were then painted by free-hand or removable transfers and stencils could be added, then taken away to be fired.

At the next meeting in November, the ladies will learn how to make fresh wreaths for Christmas.

Find the group on Facebook or follow on Twitter @WulfrunianWI

Bilbrook WI

THE October meeting was opened as usual with Jerusalem and president Julie welcomed members and visitors.

After correspondence and information on the Christmas dinner at Essington Fruit Farm, Julie introduced the speaker, Darren Rudge whose talk and demonstration was on winter hanging baskets.

He is a professional garden designer/landscape gardener, teacher, lecturer, demonstrator and speaker and has been in the gardening profession for more than 20 years.

Darren went on to demonstrate how to make a winter hanging basket and let the group in on one or two trade secrets.

The end result was a beautiful basket filled with lovely greenery, cyclamens and pansies. Darren donated the basket for the raffle and it was won by Pat Embrey.

The floor was then open to questions and answers and a vote of thanks was given by Ann Evans.

Speaker at the November 17 meeting will be Kasie Woods son 'Boots No.7'.

Stories of WWI are given voices

CDs by Danny Farragher

Various Artists
Songs for the Voiceless
THE idea for this collection is simple, the artists found their inspirations from the people who fought, died and survived WWI, with profits going to the Poppy Appeal.

Theo Jones by Sean Cooney of the Young 'Uns sings about the Hartlepool headmaster who has the unenviable distinction of being the first British soldier killed on the UK mainland by the Germans and Good Luck to the Girl That Loves a Soldier is Bella Hardy taking a woman's view of the war and using the work of musical hall artist Vesta Tilley as her inspiration.

Michael J Tinker captures some of the character of God-fearing soldier Charles Ball with his hymn-like and emotionally charged ballad. Ball was severely wounded at the Somme.

There is a cutting bonus track from Jon Boden – If You Want to See the General. Songs for the Voiceless is out now on Haystack Records.

The Willows
Amidst Fiery Skies

The second album, for Cambridge five-piece "folkestra", The Willows, is a glorious collection of traditional music fronted by the incredible voice of Jade Rhiannon.

Opener, Red Sands, gives a feel of how sailors of legend felt when they encountered Sirens; it is just so easy to fall under the spell of her tones.

There is Americana with Shores; bluegrass with Good Loving Trail and Celtic style with the up tempo Daughter.

On the final track there is the onomatopoeic opening of Wave where you



The compilation album whose profits will go to the Poppy Appeal

get a classical feel from the fiddle as Rhiannon's voice rides in over the top of the banjo, like a gull skimming the waves. Amidst Fiery Skies is out on Elk Records.

Mike Vass
In the Wake of Neil Gunn

Mix a nasty disease, a fairly obscure author and one multi-instrumentalist and what do you end up with? One permutation is Mike Vass' "concept" album.

While Scot Vass was in hospital with Lyme's Disease he was given Neil

Gunn's book about a sailing trip in the 1930s, this inspired him to replicate it physically and musically.

This instrumental album isn't for folk or acoustic purists.

Vass' guitar on opener, Settled in Clay, produces a sense of the calm waters of Duntulm, Scotland and there is the clever use of sound throughout and on tracks such as Fused Dark.

This album is a very personal journey and it's possible many won't get it.

In the Wake of Neil Gunn is out now on Unroofed Records.

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Children 'need more protection'

CHILDREN in the West Midlands are not receiving the level of protection from the police that they deserve, according to a new inspection report.

In the report, HM Inspectorate of Constabulary said investigations into child abuse by West Midlands Police were hampered by heavy workloads and a lack of understanding among officers. Concerns were voiced that the force struggled with difficult, complex or prolonged cases.

The report, which followed an inspection in June, did praise the force's leadership for demonstrating a strong commitment to child protection, with a clear plan for developing its services.

It said staff responsible for managing investigations were knowledgeable, committed and dedicated to providing good outcomes for children, and the force had developed good relationships with partner organisations. The force has six weeks to draw up an action plan.

College prepares to tighten its belt to get out of the red

A COLLEGE has tightened its belt in a bid to address a six-figure hole in its finances – with bosses hoping to improve its financial health from 'satisfactory to good' over the next two years.

Figures have emerged showing when Sandwell College was expecting to be £124,000 in the black at the end of May, it was £592,000 in the red, partly down to spending on the Sixth Form centre at The Public.

But since then the board of governors has introduced tighter controls on spending and has given the go-ahead for a bank overdraft of up to

£2million in a bid to stem a potential problem.

The college's finances have also since been boosted by the sale of land at the former Smethwick Campus and almost £2million in funding after recruiting a record number of students.

Governors had expressed concern about the college's financial position at a meeting in July, but finance bosses assured them tighter controls would be placed on the budget this year.

Defended

A three-year financial plan was presented to members. In released minutes from the meeting, the papers said: "Members noted that the plan showed small surpluses year-on-year with an improving cash flow position and financial health indicators moving from satisfactory to

good during the next two years." College bosses defended the finances, saying it was "moving from strength to strength".

"We have invested in developing the former Public building into a Sixth Form Centre and just like any major development the College had to have temporary financing options in place, to convert into a longer term loan," said a college spokesman. The sixth form campus was officially opened by HRH The Earl of Wessex last month.

The spokesman added: "We have had yet another increase in the number of students studying A Levels, which is in large part due to the excellent new facilities at the former Public building."

"The college has had a bumper year with the fantastic outcome of its Ofsted inspection."

Helpers revamp nature reserve

A NATURE reserve in Cradley Heath has been given a makeover thanks to the help of volunteers.

They spent the morning cutting back overhanging bushes and trees and picking up any litter at the Codsall Coppice Nature Reserve, off Codsall Road.

They removed litter and more than 400kg of green waste – nearly half a ton. Countryside rangers, maintenance assistants and neighbourhood services staff took part in the spruce up with support from the police. The work took place as part of Sandwell's Safer 6 campaign.

The alleyway, between Kingsway and Walters Road in Old Warley, has been overgrown, filled with rubbish and has been plagued by jobs. But following a petition which was signed by homeowners at all 85 affected properties, the council is to install four gates to seal off the alley.

What a hoot! Owl statues on display



Andy Lyndon, Coun Karen McCarthy and Dr Chris Chiswell

VISITORS will be having a hoot of a time in Birmingham as the city centre is transformed into a virtual aviary for a fundraising arts event. More than 100 5ft high owl statues will be placed across the city next summer.

Presented by public art specialists, Wild in Art, the project called The Big Hoot has been set up in partnership with Birmingham Children's Hospital. The scheme hopes to raise £500,000 for the hospital with companies being urged to sign up to sponsor the art sculptures.

They will be showcased during 10 weeks next summer with the sculptures created by Midlands artists to establish a trail of art in the city.

Owl sculptures will also be set up across other parts of the city including Great Barr and Perry Barr. Schools are also encouraged to take part with pupils offered the chance to decorate 200 'owllet' sculptures.

Hospital chief executive, Sarah-Jane Marsh, said: "The Big Hoot is a hugely exciting venture for Birmingham as a city, and we at Birmingham Children's Hospital are honoured to have been selected."

Comedian Jason to perform in musical

STAND-UP star Jason Manford will be taking to the stage in Birmingham next year.

The former One Show presenter will perform in The Producers at New Alexandra Theatre in April. The show, based on the Mel Brooks film of the same name, will be at the theatre for one week only from April 20 to 25.

The comedian said: "I'm so thrilled to be starring in my favourite musical of all time. Mel Brooks is a genius and I'm so excited to be playing the iconic role he created. The show is a riot of laughs from start to finish."

He will play the downtrodden accountant Leo Bloom in his first ever musical theatre UK tour.

Manford was a close friend of Stephen Sutton, from Burntwood, who raised millions of pounds for Teenage Cancer Trust as he battled cancer earlier this year.

Mel Brooks said: "It's brilliant to see The Producers being brought to life again with this new production."

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ClassifiedAds

Warming to the autumn fashions

Say goodbye to those summer days – it's time to enjoy what the autumn fashion scene has to offer

THOSE long hot days may now seem a distant memory but never fear there are some real treats in store on the autumn fashion scene.

These combine warmth, comfort and colour – bang up to date with the popular tartan look, wraps to keep out those chills and boots that combine style with comfort.

No need to trek too far to find the fashion, just pop into a nearby New Look store or go online and you can order them to be delivered into the store.



For formal look go for a brushed texture coat – £44.99 or wrap up warm with this tartan coat – £54.99



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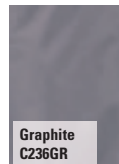
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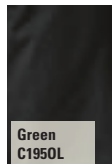
These waterproof trousers are perfect for all outdoor activities. They are fully lined for extra warmth and feature a side elasticated waistband for extra comfort. They have two touch-fasten slant pockets plus a zip and button fly fastening. Made from 100% polyester with a PU coating. Machine washable. Available in a choice of colours: Navy, graphite and green.

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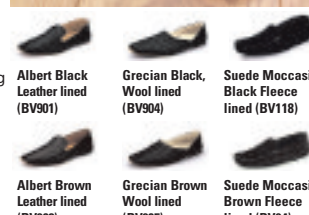
The suede moccasins are also suitable for indoor and outdoor wear, with a rugged hardwearing sole and a fully padded insole.

The Albert has a soft leather lining.

The Grecian has a wool lining.

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Hats off to this top rate musical

Top Hat, Grand Theatre

Hats off to a top rate performance on the opening night of this delightful musical.

Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre was packed to watch the classic Top Hat and they were in for a treat. And apart from a short technical hitch the cast was certainly Putting on the Ritz, bringing the glamour of Hollywood's golden age to the stage.

Yes the storyline may be a bit corny,

and everyone who has seen the film, and even those who haven't, can guess at the happy ending. But that did not matter a jot as the music – a great job by the orchestra – and the dancing were superb.

Any fans following the current TV series of Strictly Come Dancing would have looked on in amazement as the dancers glided across the stage in stunning costumes – far more elegant than sequinned SCD lot.

All the cast gave 100 per cent with a superb performance by leads Jerry Travers, played by Alan Burkitt and Dale Tremont (Charlotte Gooch) but I must confess my favourite was the rather hard-done to Horace Hardwick (Clive Hayward) who always got things wrong but somehow got things right in the end.

The show runs until Saturday so go face the music and enjoy!

Sue Attwater

Leo makes it up when list is lost

Leo & Anto

Slade Rooms, Wolves

"We will just have to make it up as we go along," announced Anthony Thistlethwaite after a colourful exclamation from Galway man Leo Moran that the set list was missing.

That set the tone for a very relaxed affair which bordered on the haphazard.

After the opener of Same Old Town the discovery led to a lot of whispering between the duo, as they discussed what to play, and loud prompting from the packed crowd.

The stripped down versions of the Saw Doctors songs saw Leo providing the majority of the lyrics and Anto showing his versatility on an impressive range of instruments.

In between tracks such as Tell Me Who the Villains Are and Friday Town there was a lot of banter including the most protracted and dull story of meeting Bob Dylan from Anto.

They gave the crowd what they wanted with songs such as First Love, Galway & Mayo and Clare Island.

Danny Farragher

REVIEWS



Colourful cast with all the Disney favourites

Sparkling Disney show is just magic

DISNEY On ice, 100 Years of Magic, Birmingham NIA

They sparkled, danced and sang – and that was just the audience at the Disney On Ice 100 Years of Magic show.

The opening night at Birmingham's NIA was packed, not bad for a 'school night'. And the youngsters, many dressed in Disney costumes, lapped it up.

All the favourites were there and launching proceedings was the loveable Goofy. He talked us through a fun-packed programme of Disney characters and their routines although the cur-

rent Frozen unfortunately was not featured – maybe next year. From the delights of Aladdin, Nemo, Beauty and the Beast and an array of princesses the show was fun packed. There were touching scenes with Minnie and Mickey and a power show by the flexible Incredibles.

The effects were, needless to say, stunning and the audience were happy to sing along to all the songs, children and adults alike. A very enjoyable night and the little ones left tired but very happy. It runs until Sunday so try to catch it.

Blues-soul veterans rock Rob-

STEVE Cropper and The Animals, Robin 2, Bilston

This union of 1960s British blues veterans and US soul guitar icon, on a return to the Black Country venue, was a special night for music fans with long memories.

Original drummer with the Georgie bluesbusters John Steel assembled a first rate band, including keys man Mickey Gallagher, stalwart of both The Animals and The Blockheads, plus superlative singer/guitarist Danny Handley and rock solid bassist Scott Whitley.

They did justice to such classics as We Gotta Get Out Of This Place. Bring It On Home To Me, Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood and House Of The Rising Sun.

Then the Stax Records guitar great and last of Booker T's MGs joined them to play licks from songs he co-wrote with Wilson Pickett, Otis Redding and Eddie Floyd. Portly, avuncular 'Colonel' Cropper regaled us with anecdotes and was enjoying himself as much as the fans. It ended with Soul Man and Boom Boom – they rocked the room.

Leon Burakowski

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Noel is so surreal and Miranda Sings

STAND up and be counted among the comedy fans.

Noel Fielding from The Mighty Boosh and Never Mind The Buzzcocks goes on surreal flights of fancy at Wolverhampton Civic Hall tonight (Thursday), while over at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre Geordie comedian Ross Noble performs his Tangentman show tomorrow and Saturday.

Al Murray brings his Pub Landlord for another round in One Man One Guv'nor at the New Alexandra on Sunday.

YouTube sensation Miranda Sings (aka Colleen Ballinger, who will be her own support act) is at the Wulfrun Hall on Wednesday, the same night Hebburn creator Jason Cook is at the Slade Rooms.

Supergroup bring Gravitas to venue

SUPERGROUP Asia have returned with a new album, Gravitas. Legendary rock drummer Carl Palmer, singer-bassist John Wetton and keyboardist Geoff Downes will be joined by Bromsgrove-born guitarist Sam Coulson at the Wulfrun Hall on Saturday.

That's the same night that Black Country band Mothers Worry have their reunion at Bilston's Robin 2 and Counting Crows play Birmingham 02 Academy with Bombay Bicycle Club collaborator Lucy Rose. Also, X Factor star and former Brum music student Rhydian sings at Birmingham Town Hall.

Paolo Nutini is at the LG Arena on Wednesday.

Dinner conversation uncovers a deadly conspiracy in thriller

Fans can rely on Paloma

PALOMA Faith brings her glamorous take on R&B to the West Midlands next month and has already planned a return in spring.

The Hackney songstress got 2014 off to a flying start with third album A Perfect Contradiction and her Pharrell Williams' produced hit Can't Rely On You. She had a star turn at the Proms, appeared at summer festivals and featured in the BBC's star-studded God Only Knows song and video.

Paloma has repackaged her album as The Outsiders Edition with extra tracks including new single Ready For The Good Life, plus a recording of her concert at the Royal Albert Hall.

The Only Love Can Hurt Like This singer has sold out Symphony Hall, Birmingham, on November 11 and plays Wolverhampton Civic Hall on November 22. She's back to play the NIA (Barclaycard Arena, as it will be then) on March 19.



Paloma Faith, with canine companion, has three concerts coming up in the West Midlands

A CHANCE remark at a dinner party exposes a conspiracy in JB Priestley's play Dangerous Corner, staged at Birmingham Rep from Monday to Saturday.

Directed by Michael Attenborough, this new production will feature Michael Praed, who is still fondly remembered as TV's Robin of Sherwood, and Colin Buchanan, who was DI Pascoe in TV series Dalziel and Pascoe.

From the writer of the classic An Inspector Calls, Dangerous Corner is a mystery that sees dinner guests take a fresh look at the events surrounding a recent death.

The strong ensemble cast also includes Kim Thomson, who was Faye Lamb in Emmerdale, Downton Abbey footman Matt Milne, Lauren Drummond from Waterloo Road and Finty Williams, the Gosford Park actress and daughter of Dame Judi Dench.

The war poets of the First World War are portrayed on stage in Regeneration at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday.

Olivier Award winning playwright Nicholas Wright has adapted Pat Barker's Booker nominated novel for the stage, a war story in which the battles rage in the minds of men devastated by their experience of the horrors.

Birmingham Rep's acclaimed production of John Steinbeck's Of Mice And Men continues at the Cen-



Praed and Buchanan in Dangerous Corner

tenary Square theatre until Saturday in the main house, whilst Dame Janet Suzman plays opposite young Khayalethu Anthony in Lara Foot's Solomon And Marion at The Studio at The Rep.

Actor Edward Petherbridge suffered a stroke whilst preparing for the role of King Lear in 2007 yet, remarkably, he could remember every line.

Petherbridge features with Paul Hunter in My Perfect Mind, a poignant and comic exploration of human resilience at The Door at The Rep from Tuesday to Saturday.

Russians bringing Ring Cycle to city

BIRMINGHAM Hippodrome undertake a massive opera event with the staging of Wagner's epic Ring Cycle in its entirety next week.

The four operas based on Norse sagas, including the story of the hero Siegfried and his Valkyrie lover Brunnhilde, will be conducted by Valery Gergiev with his world-famous Mariinsky Opera. It will bring more than 250 artists from St Petersburg to Birmingham with ten trucks of scenery.

There will be four performances over five nights on November 5, 6, 8 and 9 — plus a host of associated events under the umbrella title Ringside, see www.birminghamhippodrome.com website. The cast will include Sir Willard White.

Merry and Kerry in comedy plays

COMEDY rules at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre where Su Pollard and Cannon & Ball feature in Ha Ha Hood tonight (Thursday). Then the Hollywood view of Ireland clashes with reality in Kerry comedy Stones In His Pockets on Monday.

The comedy veterans team up with Ben Langley as Robin Hood, Prince of Leaves, in a mix of panto and sketch show.

Stones In His Pockets blends comedy and tragedy when a movie crew's arrival in a small Irish community has unforeseen results. Two actors play dozens of roles in the play, which was a hit on Broadway.

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CHOICE



Patrick Robinson

Casualty (BBC1, 9pm)
It's football derby day in Holby and the fans are getting in the mood with a few pints in the pub – and before long a fight breaks out, requiring the paramedics to be called out. The ED staff are kept on their toes, however, when the violence spills over into the hospital. Meanwhile, a young woman injured at the pub is hiding something from her fiancé, Ash struggles to cope under pressure and Dixie continues to grieve for Jeff. Rita's promotion is announced to the team, and Mac makes a decision about his career. Guest starring Antony Costa (Blue) and former Bill regular Simon Rouse alongside Charles Dale, Lee Mead, Jane Hazlegrove, Patrick Robinson, Chloe Howman, Sunetra Sarker.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** James Martin: Home Comforts. **12.00** BBC News: Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **12.50** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **3.00** Escape to the Country. **4.00** Final Score. **5.25** BBC News: Regional News: Weather. **5.40** Pointless Celebrities. **6.30** **Strictly Come Dancing.** It's Halloween at Strictly, which means a hair-raising spectacular as the 11 remaining dancing couples perform their spookiest routines, with the fearsome foursome of Len Goodman, Bruno Tonioli, Craig Revel Horwood and Darcy Bussell deciding who was frightfully good and who was awfully bad. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman present all the fun. The results are tomorrow at 7.20pm. **8.15** **Doctor Who.** Part one of two. The Doctor finally comes face to face with Missy in the mysterious world of the Nethersphere, where plans have been drawn up and an impossible choice is looming. **9.00** **Casualty.** It's football derby day in Holby and the fans are getting in the mood with a few pints in the pub – and before long a fight breaks out, requiring the paramedics to be called out. The ED staff are kept on their toes, however, when the violence spills over into the hospital. Meanwhile, a young woman injured at the pub is hiding something from her fiancé, Ash struggles to cope under pressure and Dixie continues to grieve for Jeff. Rita's promotion is announced to the team, and Mac makes a decision about his career. Guest starring Antony Costa (Blue) and former Bill regular Simon Rouse. **9.50** **The National Lottery Live.** Gaby Roslin is joined by singer Sheryl Crow as she reveal the numbers for the Lotto and Thunderball draws. **10.00** **BBC News:** Weather. **10.20** **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents action from the latest Premier League fixtures, featuring Newcastle United v Liverpool at St James' Park and Chelsea v Queens Park Rangers at Stamford Bridge; National Lottery Update. **11.45** **The Football League Show.** Highlights and all the goals from the latest fixtures. **1.05** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.10** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.15** **Film:** The Scarlet Thread. (1961) **7.30** **Film:** The Quick Gun. (1964) **9.00** The Private Life of Plants. (R) **9.50** The Private Life of Plants. (R) **10.40** The Private Life of Plants. (R) **11.30** Map Man. (R) **12.00** The Little Paris Kitchen: Cooking with Rachel Khoo. (R) **12.30** Puttin' on the Ritz: The Genius of Fred Astaire. (R) **12.45** **Film:** That's Entertainment Part Two. (1976) **2.45** **Film:** Show Boat. (1951) **4.30** The Great Interior Design Challenge. (R) **5.30** Flog It!. **6.30** **Gardeners' World.** The horticultural advice series concludes as Monty Don takes stock of his year at Longmeadow, and Carol Klein celebrates the virtues of the wildlife hedge. Last in the series. (R) **7.00** **Restoring England's Heritage.** Historian Tom Holland visits three important sites on the English Heritage "at-risk" list in the south of England, including a hospital built in memory of an explorer. **7.30** **The Greatest Knight: William the Marshal.** Thomas Asbridge examines the life and times of William Marshal, an English soldier and statesman who served four kings of England in the 12th and 13th centuries. (R) **8.30** **Dad's Army.** Mainwaring seizes the chance to contribute to the war effort by guarding a captured German U-boat crew. Guest starring Philip Madoc. (R) **9.00** **Frankenstein and the Vampire – A Dark and Stormy Night.** Documentary examining the origins of the classic horror characters, when Lord Byron, Mary and Percy Bysshe Shelley and friends gathered to tell ghost stories in 1816. **10.00** **Formula 1: United States Grand Prix – Qualifying Highlights.** The key moments from the battle for pole position at the United States Grand Prix, the 17th round of the campaign, held at the Circuit of the Americas in Austin, Texas. **11.15** **501 XL.** Extended edition. Josh Widdicombe, Jo Brand, Phill Jupitus and Alan Davies take part as host Stephen Fry asks a range of fiendish questions about lenses, lungs and legs. **12.00** TOTP2: Halloween Special. (R) **1.00** **Film:** Silkwood. (1983) **3.05** This Is BBC Two. **4.30** Rugby League: Four Nations.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.05** Animals. (R) **7.10** Animals. (R) **7.20** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.25** Sooty. (R) **7.35** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Matt Hatter Chronicles. **8.15** Horrid Henry. **8.30** The Munch Box. **9.25** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **10.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** ITV News. **11.25** Storage Hoarders. (R) **12.25** Surprise Surprise. (R) **1.25** The Unforgettable Sid James. (R) **2.00** Doc Martin. (R) **3.00** Keep It in the Family. (R) **4.00** **Film:** The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor. (2008) Fantasy adventure sequel. **6.00** **Regional Programme:** Weather. **6.15** **ITV News:** Weather. **6.30** **New You've Been Framed!** Harry Hill narrates a selection of videos filmed by viewers, featuring memorable pregnancy reactions, a dog ruining a living room, and a grandmother performing a striptease. **7.00** **The Chase: Celebrity Special.** Coronation Street actress Kym Marsh, relationship expert Tracey Cox, choreographer Louise Spence and former tennis star Greg Rusedski take on a trivia expert. Bradley Walsh hosts. **8.00** **The X Factor.** The remaining acts get into the Halloween spirit for Fright Night, a show that's almost certain to include Michael Jackson's Thriller, but also a few unexpected song choices to keep things interesting. It's now the fourth week of the live shows and the contestants are facing increasing pressure to raise their game and impress with note-perfect performances. Host Dermot O'Leary will be on hand to keep a cool head and act as a calming influence as the judges – Simon Cowell, Cheryl Fernandez-Versini, Mel B and Louis Walsh – give their verdicts and defend their own categories. The results are tomorrow at 8pm. **10.00** **The Jonathan Ross Show.** With actress Keira Knightley, Have I Got News for You regular Paul Merton, former rugby star Gareth Thomas, Great British Bake Off judge Paul Hollywood and pop trio London Grammar. **11.05** **ITV News:** Weather. **11.20** **Film:** Bloody Sunday. (2002) **1.20** Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.40** **ITV** Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

7.00 Cycling: Revolution Series. **7.55** The Morning Line. **9.00** Weekend Kitchen. **10.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.55** The Simpsons. (R) **12.30** Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Ascot, Wetherby and Down Royal. **4.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.30** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.35** Come Dine with Me. (R) **6.05** **Come Dine with Me.** Businesswoman Sarah Freeman hosts the final dinner party from Dudley, West Midlands, and hopes to impress her guests with a Moroccan menu. (R) **6.35** **Channel 4 News.** **7.05** **Speed with Guy Martin.** The motorcycle racer teams up with endurance expert Jason Miles to find out how far it is possible to travel on a tandem during 24 hours of non-stop pedalling. (R) **8.00** **Walking Through History: Victoria and Albert's Highland Fling.** Tony Robinson visits the Cairngorms National Park to discover how Queen Victoria and Prince Albert helped shape Scottish traditions and imagery, such as tartan, bagpipes and caber-tossing. Starting in Pitlochry, he traverses the Killiecrankie Pass, where the Jacobites won the Battle of Killiecrankie, and ends his trek at Balmoral and the fantasy castle Albert built as his and Victoria's Highland escape. **9.00** **Film: Red.** (2010) A retired CIA agent survives an assassination attempt and realises something in his past has made him a target. He sets out to reunite the members of his old hit squad to find out who is trying to kill them and why, but in the process, uncovers dangerous secrets. Action thriller, with Bruce Willis, Morgan Freeman, John Malkovich and Helen Mirren. **11.10** **Film: Babylon AD.** (2008) A mercenary escorts a girl from post-apocalyptic Russia to New York, unaware she holds the key to mankind's salvation. Sci-fi adventure, starring Vin Diesel. **12.55** Rude Tube. (R) **1.50** Hollywoods. (R) **3.55** Location, Location, Location. (R) **4.50** Phil: Secret Agent Down Under. (R) **5.45** NFL: The American Football Show. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.35** Access. **10.50** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **11.50** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **12.50** Alex Polizzi's Secret Italy. (R) **1.50** **Film:** A Christmas Visitor. (2002) Drama, starring Reagan Pasternak. **3.35** **Film:** A Carol Christmas. (2003) Festive comedy drama, starring Tori Spelling. **5.15** **Film:** The Town Christmas Forgot. (2010) Drama, starring Lauren Holly. **7.00** **5 News Weekend.** **7.05** **Marilyn Monroe: The Missing Evidence.** Investigating the evidence that supports some of the world's most notorious conspiracy theories. Though she officially committed suicide, some people have long claimed that the FBI, the Mafia and even the Kennedy family may have been involved in Marilyn Monroe's death. This programme looks at some of these claims, and also reveals the contents of tape recordings made inside Monroe's house on the fateful day of August 5, 1962, which suggest her psychiatrist may have been responsible for her death, working under pressure from eminent individuals in high places. (R) **8.05** **World War II in Colour.** Hitler's disastrous invasion of the Soviet Union, during which the previously undefeated German forces were destroyed by the apparently endless resources of Stalin's war machine. (R) **9.00** **Gotham.** A corrupt businessman, released on bail, instructs his lawyers to bribe his way out of trouble using the proceeds of his illicit activities. Later, a masked balloon seller snaps a handcuff on him and he floats skywards to his death. Gordon and Bullock try to track down the vigilante, while Selina attempts to escape, and Oswald Cobblepot returns to Gotham. Comic-book thriller, starring Donal Logue and Ben McKenzie. (R) **10.00** **Film: The New Daughter.** (2009) Premiere. A writer uncovers the dark history of his house to find a way to save his daughter from the evil spirits possessing her. Horror, starring Kevin Costner. **12.05** SuperCasino. **3.10** The Da Vinci Code: The True Story. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.15** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes III: Not in 3D **8.00** Top Gear **9.00** Sherlock **10.30** Live at the Apollo **11.00** Family Guy **1.40** The Revolution Will Be Televised **2.10** Bad Education **3.10** Bad Education: The Finale **3.40** Jenny Bede: AAA **4.00** Close **BBC Four**
7.00 Land of the Lost Wolves **8.00** Maps: Power, Plunder and Possession **9.00** Inspector Montalbano **10.35** Country at the BBC **12.05** Land of the Lost Wolves **1.05** Sounds of the Eighties **1.35** Top of the Pops: 1979 **2.05** Classic Albums **2.55** Maps: Power, Plunder and Possession **3.55** Close **ITV2**
11.45 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here Now! Best of the Bush **12.45** You've Been Framed! **1.50** Film: Honey (2003) **3.45** Film: The Little Vampire (2000) **5.40** Film: Casper (1995) **7.35** Film: Back to the Future Part III (1990) **10.00** The Xtra Factor **11.00** Celebrity Juice: Halloween Special **11.45** The Job Lot **12.15** The X Factor **2.15** Fake Reaction **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen **ITV3**
1.20 A Touch of Frost **3.35** Inspector Morse **5.55** Endeavour **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** The Midsummer Murders **11.00** Bomb Girls **12.00** A Touch of Frost **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping **ITV4**
11.45 World Rally Championship Highlights **12.45** The Stars: The Masters Live. Coverage of the afternoon session on day one. **5.00** Storage Wars **7.00** Darts: The Masters Live. All the action from the evening session on day one. **11.00** Film: Death Race (2008) **1.10** River Monsters: Untold Stories **2.15** Cheers **2.40** Movies Now **2.50** ITV4 Teleshopping **3.00** Teleshopping **E4**
3.40 Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **4.00** Made in Chelsea **5.00** How I Met Your Mother **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: Footloose (1984) **11.10** The Big Bang Theory **11.40** The Inbetweeners **12.10** How I Met Your Mother **1.10** New Girl **1.40** The New Normal **2.10** The Ricky Gervais Show **3.05** The Cleveland Show **3.50** Being Erica **4.35** Smallville **Film4**
11.00 The Long Memory (1952) **1.00** Dragonball Evolution (2009) **2.40** Marmaduke (2010) **4.30** Mad Money (2008) **6.35** Water for Elephants (2011) **9.00** Red Lights (2012) **11.15** The Evil Dead (1982) **1.00** Gozu (2003) **3.45** Close



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CHOICE



Sophie McShera

Downton Abbey (ITV, 9pm)
Secrets could be exposed as Rosamund arrives at Downton following Edith's shock departure. Rose is delighted to introduce Atticus and his parents to the Abbey, while Anna and Bates start thinking about a fresh start, now that the worst of their problems are seemingly behind them. Molesley is concerned to see Daisy becoming disillusioned with her studies, and Isobel makes a happy announcement, but there may be trouble on the horizon. Violet has her hands full with her warring servants, while Mary and Blake seize an opportunity to send Gillingham a strong message. Maggie Smith, Hugh Bonneville, Laura Carmichael, Jim Carter, Raquel Cassidy, Brendan Coyle, Tom Cullen, Sophie McShera, Kevin Doyle and Joanne Froggatt.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 7.30 Match of the Day. (R) **9.00 The Andrew Marr Show.** **10.00 Sunday Morning Live.** **11.00 Sunday Politics.** **12.15 MOTD2 Extra.** With Mark Chapman and the Match of the Day team. **1.00 BBC News: Weather.** **1.15 Bargain Hunt.** (R) **2.00 Holiday of My Lifetime** with Len Goodman. (R) **2.45 Lost Treasures of the Sikh Kingdom.** **3.15 Escape to the Country.** (R) **4.00 Points of View.** **4.15 Songs of Praise.** **4.50 Life Story.** (R) **5.00 BBC News.**
6.20 Countryfile. The team reports from the Isle of Wight, where Matt Baker takes a stroll along Ryde Pier, the oldest in the UK, and witnesses its ongoing restoration work. Ellie Harrison visits Osborne House, Queen Victoria's home on the island, appreciating Prince Albert's love of horticulture and in particular the trees he planted throughout the gardens, before heading to the private beach that the royal couple frequented. Plus, former farmer and trained butcher Gareth Barlow meets a women campaigning about the virtues of eating beef. Adam Henson meets a young farmer putting his own take on the poppy and Tom Heap investigates claims that education reforms could put school farms under threat. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.
7.20 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkelman reveal which couples are in the dance-off, leaving their fates in the hands of the judges, and Annie Lennox provides the music.
8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents the second of two programmes from the Somme battlefields, in which she and the experts are joined by families with stories of courage and humanity in wartime.
9.00 Death in Paradise. Drama about a fish-out-of-water British detective solving murders on the Caribbean island of Saint Marie. (R)
10.00 BBC News: Weather.
10.30 Formula 1: United States Grand Prix - Highlights. Suzi Perry introduces action from the United States Grand Prix at the Circuit of the Americas in Austin, Texas, where the 17th round of the campaign took place.
12.00 The Apprentice. (R) **1.00 Film: Girl from Rio.** (2011) **2.35 Weather** for the Week Ahead. **2.40 BBC News.**

BBC2

7.30 Countryfile. (R) **8.30 Gardeners' World.** (R) **9.00 The Football League Show.** (R) **10.20 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites.** **11.50 James Martin: Home Comforts.** **12.20 Exploring China: A Culinary Adventure.** (R) **1.20 Film: Waterloo.** (1970) Drama, starring Rod Steiger. **3.30 Flog It! Trade Secrets.** **4.00 Inside the Animal Mind.** (R) **5.00 Rugby League: Four Nations Highlights.**
6.00 Britain's Classroom Heroes 2014. Dan Snow hosts the awards ceremony honouring the nation's teachers at London's Guildhall, with guests including Prime Minister David Cameron, comedienne and actress Catherine Tate, chef Ainsley Harriott and gymnast and former Strictly Come Dancing winner Louis Smith. There is also a performance by the cast of award-winning musical Billy Elliot.
7.00 Human Universe. Professor Brian Cox explores how innate human curiosity has led mankind to realise its true place in space and time, appreciating that Earth is not at the centre of all things. (R)
8.00 Wonders of the Monsoon. Exploring the relationship that has developed over thousands of years between the people who live in monsoon regions and the wildlife they share them with. Last in the series.
9.00 Afghanistan: The Lion's Last Roar? The concluding part examines Britain's attempts to extricate itself from the war and asks whether the nation will have the desire to commit troops to such conflicts in the future.
10.00 Match of the Day 2. A review of the latest Premier League action, featuring Manchester City v Manchester United at the Etihad Stadium and Aston Villa v Tottenham Hotspur at Villa Park.
11.05 Russell Howard's Good News. The comedian offers his perspective on stories dominating the media, whether on television, online or in print. A special guest also makes an appearance. (R)
11.35 The Fall. Gibson revisits the Sarah Kay crime scene with Reed Smith and discovers a potential new lead, while Spector's boss questions him about his visit to Liz Tyler. (R)
12.35 The Fall. (R) **1.35 Sign Zone: Countryfile.** (R) **2.30 Holly City.** (R) **3.30 This Is BBC Two.**

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25 Pat & Stan.** (R) **6.35 Pat & Stan.** (R) **6.40 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures.** (R) **6.50 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures.** (R) **7.05 Canimals.** (R) **7.10 Canimals.** (R) **7.20 Signed Stories: Share a Story.** (R) **7.25 Sooty.** (R) **7.35 Mr Bean: The Animated Series.** (R) **7.50 Ultimate Spider-Man.** **8.15 Horrid Henry.** **8.30 Big Time Rush.** **9.00 The Aquabats! Super Show!** **9.25 Dickinson's Real Deal.** (R) **10.25 Murder, She Wrote.** (R) **11.25 TV News: Weather.** **11.40 Film: Carry On Jack.** (1963) **1.30 All Star Family Fortunes.** (R) **2.30 The X Factor.** (R) **4.30 Downton Abbey.** (R) **5.30 My Tasty Travels** with Lynda Bellingham. (R)
6.30 Regional Programme: Weather.
6.45 ITV News: Weather.
7.00 Keep It in the Family. Pop supergroup McBusted are this week's star assistants as two families go head to head in a series of fun-filled rounds to win big prizes. Bradley Walsh hosts.
8.00 The X Factor Results. Dermot O'Leary reveals who is safe and who has scored the lowest number of votes. Plus, performances by some of the biggest names in the charts.
9.00 Downton Abbey. Secrets could be exposed as Rosamund arrives at Downton following Edith's shock departure. Rose is delighted to introduce Atticus and his parents to the Abbey, while Anna and Bates start thinking about a fresh start, now that the worst of their problems are seemingly behind them. Molesley is concerned to see Daisy becoming disillusioned with her studies, and Isobel makes a happy announcement, but there may be trouble on the horizon. Violet has her hands full with her warring servants, while Mary and Blake seize an opportunity to send Gillingham a strong message.
10.05 ITV News: Weather.
10.25 Harry's South Pole Heroes. Part two of two. Following their intensive training programme, Prince Harry and the injured soldiers embark on their South Pole expedition, but extreme conditions take their toll. (R)
11.25 LV Cup Rugby Union. Highlights of the opening pool matches in this season's competition, including Saracens v Harlequins.
12.15 The Store. **2.20 Motorsport UK.** **3.10 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA.** (R) **3.55 ITV Nightscreen.**

CHANNEL 4

6.40 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.05 How I Met Your Mother.** (R) **7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **7.55 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **8.25 Frasier.** (R) **8.55 Frasier.** (R) **9.30 Sunday Brunch.** **12.30 The Simpsons: Bart.** (R) **1.00 The Simpsons: Lisa.** (R) **1.30 The Simpsons: Moe.** (R) **1.55 The Simpsons: Marge.** (R) **2.25 The Simpsons: The Rolling Stones.** (R) **2.55 The Simpsons: Mr Burns.** (R) **3.25 The Simpsons: Ned.** (R) **3.55 The Simpsons: Homer.** (R) **4.50 Film: The Simpsons Movie.** (2007) Animated comedy.
6.35 Channel 4 News.
7.00 WWI's Forgotten Soldiers: Secret History. Former Royal Marines commando Arthur Williams embarks on a journey to explore the experiences of nearly two million British soldiers who suffered life-changing injuries and disabilities during the First World War. Largely forgotten or ignored after the conflict, these amputees and disfigured servicemen fought for recognition, respect and equality and many became pioneers who helped to transform the nation's attitude toward disability. Arthur reflects on the hard challenges they faced and draws comparisons with his own story, having become paralysed from the waist down in a car accident in 2007.
8.00 Speed with Guy Martin. The motorcycle racer heads to Colorado, where he hopes to win one of America's oldest races, the Pikes Peak International Hill Climb, which ends more than 13,000ft above sea level.
9.00 Homeland. Carrie receives a tip from Redmond regarding Quinn's lead. Saul calls in a favour with an old friend in the Pakistani military and Fara uncovers a deep-rooted conspiracy.
10.00 Film: Shame. (2011) Premiere. A sex addict's carefully ordered life starts to fall apart when he is reunited with his equally troubled sister. Drama, starring Michael Fassbender and Carey Mulligan.
11.55 Alan Carr: Chatty Man. The host is joined by X Factor host Dermot O'Leary, Hollywood actor Elijah Wood, supermodel Naomi Campbell and Paloma Faith, performing her latest single. (R)
12.50 The Simpsons. (R) **1.20 American Football Live.** **4.45 NFL: Rush Zone.**

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05 Roary the Racing Car.** (R) **6.15 Angelina Ballerina.** (R) **6.30 Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures.** (R) **6.35 Seaside Antics.** **6.40 The Mr Men Show.** (R) **6.50 Chloe's Closet.** (R) **7.05 Olly the Little White Van.** (R) **7.10 Bananas in Pyjamas.** (R) **7.25 Make Way for Noddy.** (R) **7.35 Paw Patrol.** **7.55 Little Princess.** (R) **8.10 The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky.** (R) **8.25 Wanda and the Alien.** **8.40 Zack and Quack.** **9.00 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom.** (R) **9.15 Jelly Jamm.** (R) **9.30 LazyTown.** (R) **10.00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** **10.35 Chinese Food in Minutes.** (R) **10.50 Police Interceptors.** (R) **11.50 Police Interceptors.** (R) **12.50 Police Interceptors.** (R) **1.50 Film: The Ghost of Greville Lodge.** (2000) Supernatural family drama, starring George Cole. **3.35 Film: The Canterville Ghost.** (1996) Supernatural comedy, starring Patrick Stewart. **5.25 Film: The Witches.** (1990) Children's fantasy, starring Anjelica Huston.
7.10 5 News Weekend.
7.15 Film: Beetlejuice. (1988) Recently deceased couple Adam and Barbara Maitland enlist the professional services of a hard-boiled veteran ghost to scare away the obnoxious yuppie family who have moved into their former home. Tim Burton's supernatural comedy, starring Michael Keaton, Geena Davis, Alec Baldwin, Winona Ryder, Jeffrey Jones and Catherine O'Hara. Edited for language.
9.00 Film: The Cabin in the Woods. (2011) Premiere. Five students staying in an isolated house deep in a forest discover an ancient book that summons up supernatural creatures. As they defend themselves from the forces they have unleashed, they discover something far stranger and far more dangerous is going on behind the scenes. Horror, starring Kristen Connolly and Chris Hemsworth.
10.50 Film: Piranha. (2010) An underwater tremor unleashes a horde of carnivorous prehistoric fish on a seaside resort in the middle of spring break. Horror remake, starring Elisabeth Shue and Jerry O'Connell.
12.30 Campus PD. (R) **12.55 SuperCasino.** **3.10 The Gadget Show.** (R) **4.00 House Doctor.** (R) **4.25 Make It Big.** (R) **5.15 Angels of Japan.** (R) **5.40 Roary the Racing Car.** (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 World's Craziest Fools. **7.30 Doctor Who.** **8.15 Film: Shanghai Noon.** (2000) **10.00 Family Guy.** **10.45 Life Is Toff.** **11.15 American Dad!** **12.00 Film: Drive** (2011) **1.30 Sweetest of the Small Stuff.** **2.00 The Revolution Will Be Televised.** **2.30 Snow, Sex and Suspicious Parents.** **3.30 Life Is Toff.** **4.00 Close**
BBC Four
7.00 Timeshift: The Ladybird Books Story – How Britain Got the Reading Bug **8.00 The Samuel Johnson Prize for Non-Fiction** **8.30 The Secret Life of Books** **9.00 Exposed: Magicians, Psychics & Frauds** – Storyville **10.25 Film: Come As You Are** (2011) **12.10 Classic Albums Special** **1.05 Goth at the BBC** **2.05 John Denver at Wembley Arena** **2.50 Timeshift: The Ladybird Books Story** – How Britain Got the Reading Bug **3.45 Close**
ITV2
1.05 The Xtra Factor **2.10 Rixton: The Hot Desk** **2.20 Totally You've Been Framed!** **3.20 You've Been Framed!** **3.50 Film: Valiant** (2005) **5.25 Film: The Lost World: Jurassic Park** (1997) **8.00 Scorpion** **9.00 The Xtra Factor** **10.05 Trick'd** **11.05 Film: The 40 Year-Old Virgin** (2005) **1.20 Dads** **2.10 Two and a Half Men** **2.50 Teleshopping**
ITV3
2.25 Wyclef 3.30 Film: Columbo: Double Exposure (1973) **5.05 Lewis** **7.00 Foyle's War** **9.00 I'll Be Alright on the Night** **10.00 Agatha Christie's Marple** **12.05 William and Mary** **2.00 Judge Judy** **3.05 ITV3 Nightscreen** **3.40 Emmerdale**
ITV4
12.45 Darts: The Masters Live. **4.55 BRDC Formula 4 Championship Highlights** **5.55 Eric Bristow: Sports Life Stories** **7.00 Darts: The Masters Live.** **11.00 Film: Driven** (2001) **1.20 Highway Patrol** **1.50 Jean-Claude Van Damme: Behind Closed Doors** **2.50 ITV4 Nightscreen** **3.00 Teleshopping**
E4
2.00 Film: Horton Hears a Who! (2008) **3.45 Rude(ish) Tube Shorts** **4.00 Troy** **5.00 Melissa & Joey** **6.00 The Big Bang Theory** **9.00 Film: X-Men Origins: Wolverine** (2009) **11.10 The Inbetweeners** **11.40 Drifters** **12.15 Rude Tube: Mashed 'n' Mixed** **1.20 Glee** **2.20 Rules of Engagement** **3.10 Hollyoaks**
Film4
1.00 The Parent Trap (1998) **3.30 The Iron Giant** (1999) **5.10 The Wizard of Oz** (1939) **7.15 Fantastic Mr Fox** (2009) **9.00 The Departed** (2006) **12.00 In Another Country** (2012) **1.50 Sleuth** (2007) **3.40 Close**

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MONDAY
Once Upon a Time in Mexico, Channel 5, 10.55pm
 A crazed CIA agent based in Mexico learns of a conspiracy involving a drug baron and a military general to assassinate the president. He finds the perfect man to prevent the coup in the shape of a legendary gunslinger, who is seeking revenge on the general for murdering his wife. Action thriller, concluding Robert Rodriguez's El Mariachi trilogy, starring Antonio Banderas, Johnny Depp, Willem Dafoe, Mickey Rourke and Salma Hayek. (2003)

TUESDAY
In the Valley of Elah, BBC1, 11.40pm
 A retired military investigator's soldier son disappears without trace shortly after returning from Iraq. Frustrated at the police and the army's lack of progress in solving the case, he begins to suspect a cover-up and enlists the aid of a small-town detective in uncovering the truth. Drama, starring Tommy Lee Jones, Charlize Theron and Susan Sarandon. (2007)



American Gangster, Friday, ITV, 10.40pm

WEDNESDAY
Away from Her, BBC1, 11.45pm
An elderly woman with Alzheimer's disease is adamant she will move into a care home to spare her husband of 50 years the burden of looking after her. Sadly, this leaves him in the heartbreaking position of having to watch helplessly as his beloved wife slips away from him. Drama, based on a short story by Alice Munro, starring Gordon Pinsent, Julie Christie, Olympia Dukakis and Alberta Watson. (2006)

THURSDAY
Badge of Betrayal, Channel 5, 3.15pm
 A woman discovers her supposedly dead son is still alive, his demise having been faked by her ex-husband as part of an elaborate plot to destroy her life. However, finding the evidence to prove her story turns out to be a difficult challenge. Thriller, starring Julie Benz, Matthew Kevin Anderson and Samantha Ferris. (2014)

FRIDAY
American Gangster, ITV, 10.40pm
The story of 1970s drug kingpin Frank Lucas, whose innovative methods of smuggling heroin into the US made him one of the leading figures in the New York underworld. A detective is assigned to bring Lucas's empire down, but his investigation is undermined by police corruption. Ridley Scott's fact-based crime drama, starring Denzel Washington. (2007)

Celebs aim not to frighten on a spooky dance night

We've been treated to some extraordinary sights so far this series – from EastEnders Jake Wood salsa-ing up a storm to Judy Murray literally flinging herself into Anton du Beke's arms during a surprisingly forceful tango.

And that's without even mentioning Movie Week when Mark Wright got to be Superman, Scott Mills was transformed into a crab, and Claudia Winkleman threw popcorn into Tess Daly's cleavage.

But it seems that was all just a warm-up for tonight's Halloween extravaganza, the show when the make-up and costume departments can really let their imaginations run riot.

Of course, for many of the celebs, every Saturday night so far has been fright night as they try to conquer their nerves and perform in front of millions of people. Even the stars you might expect to be used to shaking their stuff in public – like pop star Pixie Lott – admit that *Strictly* is a whole new experience.

She says: "[The judges] make me nervous! I think they're all great in their own way. My favourite is Darcey Bussell. She's the only ballerina I'd heard of as a young girl. Ballet's such a discipline – she got to the top of her game, which is amazing."

Wood, better known to soap fans as Max Branning, may seem surprisingly at home on the dancefloor, whether he's doing a moody waltz or channelling Elvis in a jive, but he says it's all new to him as well. "I tend not to even dance at a party but I do sometimes dance at home when I'm mucking about with the kids."

Luckily, that hasn't stopped him enjoying the experience. "It's something that's completely out of my comfort zone and I like a challenge. It's such a great Saturday night show and my family always sits down and watches it together so I'm really happy to be involved and I think my kids will really enjoy watching me take part."

It seems likely the 11 remaining stars will be taken even further out of

their comfort zones this week, as the professional dancers wrack their brains for more supernatural-themed songs. (In previous years, we've been treated to a *Ghostbusters* cha cha from Sid Owen, Russell Grant doing the samba to *Better the Devil You Know*, and Mark Benton performing possibly the world's first intergalactic disco paso doble to *I Lost My Heart to a Starship Trooper*.)

And they'll still face the terrifying prospect of being judged by Len Goodman, Bruno Tonioli, Craig Revel Horwood and Bussell, although as TOWIE star Wright could tell you, even getting decent scores and encouraging comments can't always save you from that dreaded dance-off.

We'll have to wait for Sunday night to find out who's going home this week, and as an added incentive, the results show will also feature a performance by Annie Lennox. And if anyone's still searching for a Halloween tune, she did once have a hit with Love Song for a Vampire...



Strictly Come Dancing, Saturday, BBC1, 6.30pm

MONDAY
The Passing Bells
BBC1, 7pm
New series. Five-part drama being shown over five nights, in which the First World War unfolds through the eyes of two ordinary young men. Upon the outbreak of hostilities, farmer's son Michael and delivery boy Thomas both defy their parents and slip out to the recruitment office, alongside thousands of other men. After donning their uniforms – one British, one German – each set of parents struggles to cope with their sons' deceptions, before the new recruits set off for training, and while shy Tommy struggles to find his feet, Michael immediately begins to miss girlfriend Katie. Patrick Gibbons and Jack Lowden star. Continues tomorrow.

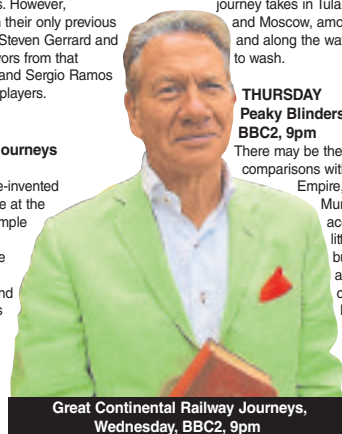
TUESDAY
Live UEFA Champions League
ITV, 7.30pm
Real Madrid welcome Liverpool to the Bernabeu for this matchday four Group B fixture. This is the second meeting between the clubs in the space of a fortnight, and the odds are stacked against the Reds here given they suffered a 3-0 defeat at Anfield. Cristiano Ronaldo opened the scoring in typically brilliant fashion and Karim Benzema added two more in the opening 45 minutes. Much

was made of Mario Balotelli's subdued performance that saw Brendan Rodgers substitute the striker at half time, but improvements are also needed in defence if the Merseysiders are to have a dramatic reversal in fortunes this evening against the classy defending champions. However, Liverpool did defeat Real 1-0 on their only previous visit to this ground in 2009, but Steven Gerrard and Martin Skrtel are the only survivors from that team, while Iker Casillas, Pepe and Sergio Ramos are the three remaining Madrid players.

WEDNESDAY
Great Continental Railway Journeys
BBC2, 9pm

Some celebrities' lives can be re-invented thanks to being in the right place at the right time. Michael Palin for example was considered an unlikely successor to Alan Whicker in the late Eighties when he went around the World in 80 Days, and in recent years Michael Portillo's railway travels have made for compelling viewing also. Now, armed with his trusty Bradshaw's guide, he's off on the Eurostar to travel overseas and into the past. There he

Great Co
W



**Great Continental Railway Journeys,
Wednesday, BBC2, 9pm**

examines how life in Europe 100 years ago was changed forever by the advent of war. His first journey takes in Russia, a country which in 1913 was something of an enigma "poised between reform and revolution," explains Michael. His epic journey takes in Tula, Saint Petersburg and Moscow, among other places, and along the way he is taught how to wash.

THURSDAY
Peaky Blinders
BBC2, 9pm

There may be the obvious comparisons with *Boardwalk Empire*, and Cillian Murphy's Birmingham accent may take a little getting used to, but those niggles are tiny when you consider the stylistic brilliance of Steven Knight's epic crime drama. With a top-drawer cast including Helen McCrory and Tom Hardy,

series two has made for compelling viewing in recent weeks, and the latest episode is no exception. It's Derby Day at Epsom, and under orders from Major Campbell, Tommy is there to assassinate a high-ranking member of the military establishment. He plans turn the situation to his advantage by bringing his gang to the racecourse and striking a blow at gang boss Sabini – a scheme that could take his organisation to another level.

FRIDAY
Marvel's Agents of SHIELD
Channel 4, 8pm

Given the fact Marvel are now one of the most powerful entertainment companies on Earth, with TV shows such as this and pending small screen sagas Daredevil and Agent Carter, there's little wonder DC are fighting back with more helpings of Arrow, Gotham and The Flash. Can Agent Coulson and company win the lion's share of ratings? Well they're certainly going to have a good go with this latest run being the perfect teaser for next spring's blockbuster Avengers: Age of Ultron. This week Phil and the team attempt to utilise the freezing power of Donnie Gill, a lethal Morocco-based individual fans may remember from series one episode, Seeds. The problem is, Simmons is caught in the crossfire.

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MONDAY: DARTS LEAGUE **TUESDAY:** POOL TABLE & JUKE BOX **WEDNESDAY:** CURRY NIGHT **THURSDAY:** POOL COMPETITION **FRIDAY OR SATURDAY:** DISCO **SUNDAY:** BAR SNACKS



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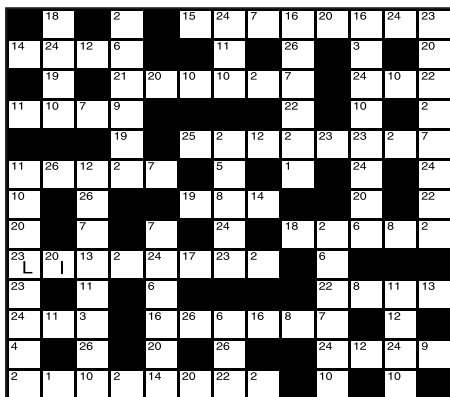
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	J	T	P	A	H	Z	K	F	N	Y	G	X	O
14	W	L	B	I	Q	D	S	V	U	R	C	E	M

1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

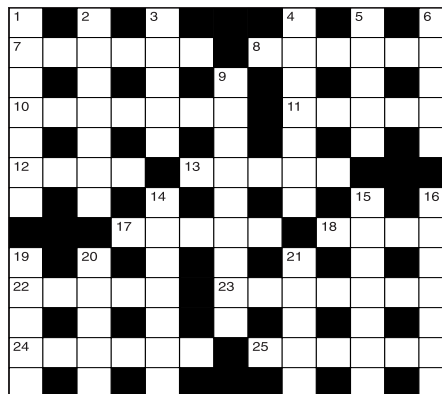
Cryptic Clues:

Across

7. Go and attend to the break-down (6)
8. See 18 Across
- 10 & 15Dn. Not money put down on a bottle of cordial! (7,7)
11. Leguminous food often taken by the doctor (5)
12. The sailors shouted in triumph (4)
13. Sounds like those who pay for stock buildings (5)
17. See 24 Across
- 18 & 8Ac. Is this used to sew camping equipment? (4-6)
22. That education is, in part, much out of favour (5)
23. I'm soon upset by the start of the evidence - it's disgusting (7)
- 24 & 17Ac. Another look - that's what the clairvoyant needs (6-5)
25. Your humble servant (6)

Down

1. Unpleasant expression of a sullen expert (7)
2. Textile worker in revolutionary movement? (7)
3. Using a bit of stuff I break the thread (5)
4. Fastens down a broken plate in the ship (7)
5. See 20 Down
6. See 14 Down
9. Piece of stage property used by children (9)
- 14 & 6Dn. Screwing up the bed-cover - it goes round the body (7-5)
15. See 10 Across
- 16 & 19Dn. A competition for the highest position in the church? (12)
19. See 16 Down.
- 20 & 5Dn. Cattle even now quite unmoved (5-5)
21. School imposition for making rows! (5)



Quick Clues:

Across

7. Not liable to (6)
8. Concealed (6)
10. Voter (7)
11. Poetry (5)
12. Close (4)
13. Brief (5)
17. Collision (5)
18. Thin (4)
22. Frock (5)
23. Avenge (7)
24. Devastate (6)
25. Bits (6)

Down

1. Opposite (7)
2. Income (7)
3. Grudge (5)
4. Transform (7)
5. Centre (5)
6. Guide (5)
9. Band (9)
14. Forebode (7)
15. Charm (7)
16. Concentrated (7)
19. Worship (5)
20. Weighty (5)
21. Furnish (5)

Sudoku

				9		4	2	
7		9	4		2			3
				3	6		5	
		5				7		9
8				1				2
9		7	5			8		
	7		6	4				8
5					8	6	7	
	9	8		7				

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

4	2	7	6	9	1	5	3	8
1	3	9	7	5	8	4	6	2
6	8	5	4	2	9	1	7	3
2	4	3	1	7	5	8	9	6
7	5	8	4	6	9	3	2	1
9	1	6	2	8	3	7	4	5
5	6	4	9	1	7	2	8	3
8	9	2	5	3	6	1	7	4
3	7	1	8	2	4	6	5	9

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Relic; 4 Bottles; 8 Made man; 9 Rogue; 10 Need; 11 Medicine; 13 Pomp; 14 Lute; 16 Elephant; 17 Self; 20 Agent; 21 Mandate; 22 Stencil; 23 Press. Down: 1 Roman numerals; 2 Lodge; 3 Camp; 4 Banker; 5 Terminus; 6 Lignite; 7 Scene-shifters; 12 Emphatic; 13 Precede; 15 Enamel; 18 Erase; 19 Snap. QUICK - Across: 1 Flood; 4 Decline; 8 Unclasp; 9 Level; 10 Torn; 11 Stealing; 13 Earl; 14 Else; 16 Slanders; 17 Main; 20 Evade; 21 Overdue; 22 Sweater; 23 Strut. Down: 1 Faultlessness; 2 Occur; 3 Dead; 4 Deputy; 5 Culpable; 6 Invoice; 7 Enlightenment; 12 Gradient; 13 Emanate; 15 Ardour; 18 Adder; 19 Less.

Quiz

1. Which planet features the Great Red Spot?
2. How are the Nicaraguan right-wing guerrillas known?
3. Which element is named after the Greek for violet?
4. Which former PM secured the release of three hostages in Iraq?
5. How many parts comprise the book Gulliver's Travels?
6. Of which Dickens novel is Pip the central character?
7. What is the Italian word for 'scratched drawings'?
8. In which city is Holyrood House?
9. How many yards are there in a furlong?
10. In Greek legend, who cut the Gordian Knot?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Zoltan Kodaly; 2 Jamestown; 3 Sweden and Denmark; 4 Winston Churchill; 5 Backbone; 6 Lyon; 7 I Ching; 8 Frank Herbert; 9 Zimbabwe; 10 Pancreas.

Niner: INTERLOCK

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

983 gives an animal,
23576 gives a bird,
1459366 gives another bird.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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Four-bed home in top spot for commuters



A TRADITIONAL four-bed-roomed property in Hollyhedge Road, West Bromwich lies in a sought after area in an excellent position for commuting.

It is for sale through Bartrams at £279,950.

With central heating and major double glazing it has a reception room one with a wood burning-effect gas fire and French doors to a kitchen/diner. There is a reception room two, conservatory and utility.

For further information contact Bartrams on 0121 6019370 or visit www.bartrams.com



An ideal purchase for the first time buyers



A PLEASANT and well presented three-bedroomed town house in Glastonbury Crescent, Bloxwich, Walsall is for sale through Skitts Estate Agents at £97,500 and would be ideal for a first time buyer.

With double glazing and gas central heating it has a reception hall with stairs off.

There is a lounge with a gas fire, a spacious full width dining kitchen with built-in oven, hob and extractor, three bedrooms and a bathroom and separate WC.

Outside there is a rear lawn garden which includes a timber-decked patio.

For further information on the property or to view contact Skitts Estate Agents on 01922 478104 or visit www.skitts.net



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NEW
HALESOWEN, Longmoor Road£825 pcm - Fees
Large 3 bed micklow style semi-detached property features: 2 reception rooms, 2 double bedrooms (master with fitted wardrobes), 1 single bedroom, modern bathroom with L-shaped bath, garage, driveway parking for multiple vehicles, gas central heated and double glazed. Ideally located for Huntingtree Primary School. EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Hagley Road£795 pcm - Fees
1st MONTHS RENT HALF PRICE! An unfinished detached house within close proximity of Halesowen. Briefly comprising of: 3 Bedrooms, large lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom with separate w.c., driveway parking & garage, double glazing, gas central heating (new boiler) EPC: D



AMBLECOTE, 41a/b/c High Street£775 pcm - Fees
A fantastic opportunity to rent a new build home on a select development. Featuring homes of 3 generous size bedrooms (master with en-suite) finished to an exceptional standard. Featuring spacious lounge/dining areas, well appointed kitchens, downstairs WC, 3 bedrooms with family bathrooms & master bedroom with en-suite. 2 allocated parking spaces front & rear gardens. These homes will not be available for long. EPC: TBC



NEW
BIRMINGHAM, Orion Building£775 pcm - Fees
FREE 1ST MONTHS RENT. A fantastic opportunity to rent a fully furnished apartment in the heart of Birmingham City Centre. This 1 bed modern property overlooking the Mailbox features open plan living with luxury kitchen with 24 hour concierge service, secure parking, double glazed and electric heating. Viewings highly recommended. EPC: TBC



ROWLEY REGIS, Spring Vale Road£650 pcm - Fees
1ST MONTHS RENT HALF PRICE! An opportunity to acquire a well maintained traditional detached property situated in a popular residential location in a quiet cul-de-sac close to local schools, amenities and road links. Featuring a large living room, fitted kitchen with double range cooker, W.C., 2 double & 1 single bedroom/study, bathroom with shower, driveway/garage. A lovely property not to be missed. Minimum contract 12 months. EPC: D



NEW
HALESOWEN, The Rookery£640 pcm - Fees
Set in a lovely cul-de-sac and a highly sought after location. This 2 bedroom house features a modern fitted breakfast kitchen with appliances, great size lounge, double glazing, gas central heating, house bathroom with shower, driveway parking for 2 cars and a large rear garden. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Wroxley House£625 pcm - Fees
Luxury living in Hayley Green. This superb luxury ground floor apartment offering spacious accommodation including open plan lounge/kitchen and diner with patio doors, 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, a further well appointed bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking. EPC: B



STOURBRIDGE, Radley Road£595 pcm - Fees
An extended semi-detached house in a popular cul-de-sac location. This property will not last long and features an entrance hall, 2 generous reception rooms, extended kitchen, 2 double bedrooms and 1 single bedroom, bathroom with shower. Tied rear garden, driveway & garage. EPC: E



Renovated throughout! Stunning!
HALESOWEN, Talbot Street£575 pcm - Fees
Step inside this fantastic 3 bedroom terrace property. Renovated throughout within the last 6 months to a very high standard, featuring 2 great size reception rooms, modern fitted kitchen, fully tiled bathroom with electric shower, gas central heating system. This property will not be available long. EPC: E



NETHERTON, Copse Road £575 pcm - Fees
A semi-detached house that has been fully refurbished to a high standard comprising of: Hallway, front lounge, large kitchen/dining area, 3 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, front & rear gardens with driveway & additional parking to rent. Solar panels installed saving up to 30% on electric bills. Available now. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Hoosen Close£575 pcm - Fees
A delightful modern refurbished mid terrace house located within a desirable quiet cul de sac. Featuring a lovely refitted kitchen with electric oven/hob, fridge freezer and hotpoint washer/dryer. Gas central heating, large lounge with patio doors offering views across a mature herbaceous garden benefiting from a sunny aspect. 2 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, garage, parking space. Close to bus links to Birmingham. EPC: E



HALESOWEN, Haden Arch Court£575 pcm - Fees
Contemporary living in Halesowen. This 1st floor spacious apartment above the archway, within walking distance to Halesowen Town Centre and buses, the apartment features gas central heating, double glazing, open plan living room/fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower, separate shower cubicle, allocated parking. EPC: B



CRADLEY HEATH, Wrights Lane£550 pcm - Fees
A well presented 2 bedroom terraced property currently being refurbished and comprising of: lounge, breakfast kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower, rear garden, within walking distance of Old Hill Train Station. Available end of October. EPC: E



CRADLEY HEATH, Station Road£550 pcm - Fees
A newly decorated & carpeted 3 bedroom mid terrace house in this popular location minutes away from Old Hill train station. This spacious property has 2 reception rooms, downstairs walk in shower room, modern fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms & 1 single. Private rear garden. On road parking. EPC: E



HALESOWEN, Wright Street£525 pcm - Fees
Close to Halesowen Town Centre and Tenterfields Primary School. This end terrace home features gas central heating, cosy living room, dining room, fitted kitchen, 1 double bedroom and 1 single bedroom, bathroom with shower, rear garden, on road parking. Available now. Short term let for 6 months, possibly longer. EPC: E



NEW
HALESOWEN, Bloomfield Street North£525 pcm - Fees
Located on this popular road near Halesowen Town Centre and close to both Newfield Park Primary School and Windsor High School, is this well present mid-terrace property. The house comprises of: two large bedrooms, cosy lounge, large kitchen, house bathroom with shower, double glazing, gas central heating, low maintenance rear garden, on road parking. EPC: C



NETHERTON, Golden Hillock Road£525 pcm - Fees
Undergone a complete redecoration and situated on a corner plot. This beautiful semi detached house features a good size lounge, large refitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, brand new modern bathroom with shower, downstairs WC, front, side and rear garden, gas central heating and double glazing. A must see property! EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Stour Court £500 pcm - Fees
A great opportunity to rent this spacious and well proportioned ground floor apartment in a popular location. Large & airy living room, fully fitted kitchen with appliances, 2 double bedrooms, white bathroom suite with shower. Outside there is allocated parking and communal gardens. EPC: C



DUDLEY, Attingham Drive £495 pcm - Fees
A part furnished 2nd floor apartment close to Dudley Town Centre. Featuring an open plan lounge/dining kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bathroom with a shower, electric storage heating, double glazing, alarm, allocated parking. EPC: TBC



CRADLEY HEATH, Wycherley Way£475 pcm - Fees
A well presented unfurnished ground floor apartment, briefly comprising: living room, 1 double bedroom with fitted wardrobes and 1 single bedroom, bathroom with shower. Benefits include gas central heating, double glazing, communal gardens, parking space. Close to local amenities. EPC: C



STOURBRIDGE, Clifton Street£450 pcm - Fees
A stunning apartment set in the Old Quarter of Stourbridge. Ideal for the town centre and transport links. The apartment is on the 1st floor and features a great size lounge, new kitchen, new bathroom with shower, 1 double bedroom, double glazing and electric heating, on road parking. EPC: TBC

Infiniti's charge on market

By Graham Breeze

Infiniti sold very few cars in the UK last year but you can expect to see a lot more on our roads with the arrival of a turbocharged petrol version of the Q50 premium sports saloon.

For the confused readers Infiniti is Nissan's up-market offering – the same relationship as Lexus has to Toyota.

And if you haven't seen one on the road you will have seen the name splashed across the side of the Red Bull F1 team – which means the company is serious about exposure.

The Q50 is a mid-size, rear-drive saloon launched to take the opposition head-on at

BMW, Audi and Mercedes. And that's going to be no easy task.

The Japanese luxury car producer is determined to increase market share in the next year and the Q50 is set to become their best seller.

It is already available with a 2.2-litre diesel engine or a direct response 3.5-litre petrol/electric hybrid drivetrain.

And there are three trim levels for the diesel models – SE, Premium and Sport, with the Hybrid available in one, fully equipped form only.

The Infiniti may be a rare sight on our roads at the moment but the new petrol option will appeal to a new customer base.

It oozes style and a new lightweight 4-cylinder turbocharged petrol engine now gives performance to match, thanks to 208hp and 258lb/ft (350Nm) of torque via a 7-speed automatic transmission.



.....
‘This model handles like a dream on motorways or on country roads, roars when you want it to and is agile enough.’
.....

It gets Euro 5 certified technology and an impressive throttle response that gives an astonishing top speed of 152mph and 0-62mph in 7.5seconds.

You can expect to get over 40mpg on the combined cycle and the car emits 151g/km of CO2 in sport form.

This model handles like a dream on motorways or on country roads, roars when you want it to and is agile enough to be competitive in the sector.

Wood and leather have been used extensively inside to provide a superb cabin area which is dominated by two big colour

centre screens – one containing the Sat-Nav system, the other an iPad based system which controls just about everything you can think of.

The Infiniti Q50 takes the idea of a car with a memory to a whole new level. Thanks to 96 selectable settings across 10 functions, possible permutations for personalisation run into the millions.

The system will remember the personal settings for up to four people – three registered users and one guest – covering the areas of life on board, dynamic performance and safety technology.



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Official Fuel Consumption Figures for the Suzuki Swift range mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km): Urban 41.5-46.3 (6.8-6.1), Extra Urban 57.6-64.2 (4.9-4.4), Combined 50.4-56.5 (5.6-5.0), CO₂ emissions 128-116 g/km and for the Suzuki SX4 range mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km): Urban 32.5-42.8 (8.7-6.6), Extra Urban 50.4-60.1 (5.6-4.7), Combined 42.2-53.3 (6.7-5.3), CO₂ emissions 155-139 g/km and for the Suzuki Splash range mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km): Urban 40.9-50.4 (6.9-5.6), Extra Urban 56.5-67.3 (5.0-4.2), Combined 49.6-60.1 (5.7-4.7), CO₂ emissions 131-109 g/km and for the Suzuki Alto range mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km): Urban 43.5-54.3 (6.5-5.2), Extra Urban 65.7-74.3 (4.3-3.8), Combined 55.4-65.7 (5.1-4.3), CO₂ emissions 118-99 g/km.

The above fuel consumption figures are based on an EU test for comparative purposes only and may not reflect real driving results. *Model shown: Swift SZ4 available from £12,199 (Metallic paint available at £430). *VAT free offer on Swift range: Swift 1.2 SZ2 3dr available from £8,999, including a customer saving of £1,800 to Swift 1.2 SZ4 5dr 4x4 available at £13,699 including customer saving of £2,740 which is equivalent to the VAT amount of the previous on the road price of £10,799 (SZ2 3dr) and £16,439 (SZ4 5dr 4x4). VAT Free offer excludes Swift Sport. *Model shown: SX4 SZ5 available from £13,249 (Metallic paint available at £430). *VAT free offer on SX4 range: SX4 1.6 SZ3 available from £10,495, including customer saving of £2,100 to SX4 SZ5 4x4 available at £13,249 including customer saving of £2,650 equivalent to VAT amount of previous on the road price of £12,595 (1.6 SZ3) and £15,899 (1.6 SZ5 4x4). *Model shown: Splash SZ4 available from £9,899 (Metallic paint available at £415). *VAT free offer on Splash range: Splash 1.0 SZ2 available from £7,999, including customer saving of £1,600 to Splash 1.2 SZ4 A/T available at £10,645 including customer saving of £2,129 equivalent to VAT amount of previous on the road price of £9,599 (SZ2) and £12,774 (SZ4 A/T). *Model shown: Alto SZ4 available from £7,999 (Metallic paint available at £399). *VAT free offer on Alto range: Alto 1.0 SZ available from £5,999, including customer saving of £1,200 to Alto 1.0 SZ4 A/T available at £8,625 including customer saving of £1,724 equivalent to VAT amount of previous on the road price of £7,199 (SZ) and £10,349 (SZ4 A/T). VAT equivalent reduction is not available on vehicle options or accessories. VAT Free offer excludes Swift Sport. For full details contact your local participating Suzuki Dealer. Offer subject to availability for vehicles privately registered between 1st October 2014 to 31st December 2014 from participating Authorised Suzuki Dealers only. Offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers. All prices and specifications correct at time of going to print.



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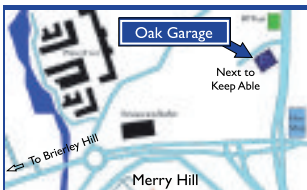
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An Impreza impresses with simple plain logic

By Ian Donaldson

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How can you not warm to a car when the man charged with selling hundreds of them tells you the company 'went through a pretty sticky patch three or four years ago.'

Refreshingly honest as that statement was, you know he'd only utter the words if the world did not look a rosier place today to sell us . . . a Subaru.

And it does, principally because the country where the cars come from – Japan – is now much weaker economically compared to the United Kingdom than it was, three or four years ago.

That means your pound goes a lot further today when you have to buy something in yen from Japan, as the importers of Subarus to the UK must do before they have something to sell us here.

So, quite suddenly, it's worth expanding the Subaru dealer network in anticipation of a sales surge and worth bringing in models that quite recently would have been too expensive to consider.

The car you see here is a prime example of this new-found value. For the same sort of money you need for something like a Ford Focus you can turn instead to a Subaru Impreza and discover a car that's very deliberately different.

The differences go deep, with features fitted as standard that are either expensive extras or simply not offered on mainstream rivals, like the Focus and a host of other big-sellers.

Top of the list (and no surprise to Subaru fans) is permanent four-wheel drive; it's the proper deal, not the half-hearted on-demand system rivals sometimes offer and which only chimes in when wheels start to spin.

It gives the rather ordinary looking Impreza hatchback the all weather grip that makes it instantly attractive to people like vets and rural doctors . . . not to mention the district nurse imagined by Subaru's UK chief as an ideal prospective buyer.

She (or he, of course) would find this useful technology packaged in a car that costs surprisingly little, starting at £17,495 for the manual gearbox version and rising to £18,995 for a car with automatic gears.

That model is a bit slower but actually a little more economical than the manual in the official tests and produces fewer tailpipe emissions, for a £15 annual saving in annual road tax.

Improvement

Not that either version is a star in the economy stakes. Both feature the same engine, as usual with a Subaru it has its four cylinders set flat and low down between the front wheels, for a (theoretical) improvement in the way the car handles corners.

It's always had a liking for petrol, although with nothing like the thirst of the famed rally Subarus of a decade or so ago; now reborn and available in roadgoing trim as the £28,995 WRX STI, which will happily return less than 20mpg used with enthusiasm.

You might get double that in the Impreza tested here (actually 38mpg on the test drive) which may be good enough not to put off potential purchasers.

They will be more attracted to the fair pile of standard kit that comes with today's very reasonably priced Impreza, from climate control air conditioning, heated front seats and cruise control to Bluetooth, eight airbags and a reversing camera.

They might miss a sixth speed in the manual gearbox and would certainly welcome a bit more power from an engine that sounds nicely enthusiastic when pushed but lacks the verve the all-wheel drive system could easily handle.

No problems with the ride, though, which lets the car flow nicely on broken British road surfaces, thanks in part to the fitment of modestly sized alloy wheels and tyres with decently tall sidewalls.

That's a typically sensible feature in a car that feels sensible all the way through, from an interior that prefers plain logic to plush contrivance and even to a warranty that might last you 100,000 miles.

TESTED

Subaru Impreza 1.6i RC

Engine: 112bhp petrol

Warranty: Five years or 100,000 miles

Economy: The Impreza can do 44.1mpg

Insurance group: 13

Price: £17,495

*With any qualifying new Vauxhall purchased. †Licensed credit brokers, subject to status, written quotations available on request. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. Insurance offers subject to age and status. All offers subject to stock availability terms and conditions. Please ask for full details. Pictures used for illustration purposes only. Information correct at time of going to press. E&OE.

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puppy whilst it is still with it's
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2. Do not attempt to collect a
puppy from any other location
than that of the breeder.

3. Ensure that you are given any
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Whilst Midland News
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great care to avoid publication
of advertisements from Puppy
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60 reg, white, fsh, one lady owner, 12 months MoT, immaculate showroom condition inside and out, 11,000 miles only.

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£4,995 ono.

07909 994373

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07, silver, 1.25xi, long MoT, CD player, e/w, alloy wheels, very good condition, £3,300 ono. 07754 557861.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXi, 3-dr, 05 reg, 62k miles, 6 service stamps, black, 11 months MoT, very good condition, £1,950. 07850 113650.

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2010, 38,000 miles, black, MoT, EM, airbags, MP3, ABS, FSH, CD, great drive / value

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01902 844155.

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cars under £1500

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that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

BMW 1.6i L reg, spares or repair, drive away, £275 ono.

07884 514422.

CITROEN SAXO Furio, 03 reg., 11 months MoT, CD, alloys, PAS, electric, sunroof, very nice car, low mileage, £775. 07572 934584.

DAEWOO LANOS S reg, silver, 1349cc, MoT till April 2015, 76k miles, ideal first car, £450 ono. 01384 443311. 07966 743505.

FORD FIESTA LX 2004, 3-dr, 87,000 miles, 6 months MoT, air bags, EW, AC, 1 previous owner, £1,500. 01902 655586.

FORD FOCUS 5-dr hatchback, 1600cc, MoT May, good condition, £725 ono. 07760 887220.

MG ROVER ZR

2003, 53,000 miles, dark red, air bag, alarm, long MoT, metallic paint, central locking, pas, tax, alloys, stereo, CD.

£750 ono.

07773 240154.

FORD KA Collection, 9 months MoT, 69,500 miles, regularly serviced, 04 reg, £680 ono. 0121 3575026 or 07825 706640.

FORD PUMA, black, 51 reg, good condition, alloys, low mileage, full MoT, lady owner, genuine reason for sale, £600 ono. 07955 467026.

JAGUAR S-TYPE, V6, 3.0L, 5 speed, manual, V reg, towbar, alloys, grey, looks like new, £800. Telephone 01952 750878.

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New shape, 2006, 5 door, hatchback, very low miles, full MoT, superb car, CD, e/w, c/l, alarm, lady owner.

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PEUGEOT 106 1.5 diesel, 5-dr, EV, PAS, new cam belt, 12 months MoT, good condition, 2002 plate, £500. 07989 243426.

PEUGEOT 406 GLX HDI AUTO. Estate, 02 Diesel, 2000cc, 12 mths MoT, £700. 07985 313623.

RENAULT CLIO Billabong, black, 03 reg, 1,000 ovno. 07947 574131.

RENAULT SCENIC 2000, 4 new tyres, MoT May, good runner. £400 ono. 01902 780666.

RENAULT SCENIC MPV, 02, 124,000 miles, silver, abs, electric windows, MoT till Feb 2015, clean and drives well. £595. 07900 567504.

ROVER 75 1.8T 03, MoT to June 2015, 70k miles, silver, 6 disc CD player, good condition, £650. 01888 577573.

TOYOTA CELICA Coupe, 1800cc, 1999, full MoT, 69,000 miles. Bereavement forces sale, £650 ono. 07473 762890.

TOYOTA COROLLA GS, 1998, 50k miles, 12 months MOT, 1 drives superb, excellent for year £450 ono. Call 01902 672031.

VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 8V, 5dr hatch, Y reg 01, MOT, met silver, good runner, £550 ono. (Dave) 01384 860006 or 07946 881972.

VAUXHALL CAVALIER 1.6 Envoy, 5dr, 1 owner, no rust, 89k, 6 months MOT, history, excellent condition, £475 ono. 01746 712386.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0 silver, 53 reg, 65,000 miles, short MOT, needs timing chain, 2 owners, £500. 07828 425486.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 55 reg, 3dr, MOT, CL PAS, 80,000, £1,295. 01902 944719 or 01902 620567.

VAUXHALL VECTRA 2007, 1 owner, met blue, MOT March, 118k, good condition, drives superb £1,100 no offers. 01902 823835.

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Private cash buyer
Instant cash settlement.
Any car, any condition.
Call Market Drayton.
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MORRIS MINOR 1967, Long MOT. Nice condition inside/out. Nearly new tyres, drives well. Can e-mail photos. £2,250 ono. 01905 620567.

TWO MORRIS MINORS, 1 blue 1967, 1 green 1966, in need of restoration. £300 each or £600 for the 2. 01262 74571.

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Offers.
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commercial vehicles

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FORD FIESTA VAN 1.4, TDCi Trend, 09 reg, 66,000 miles, FSH, MOT April 15, silver, excellent condition. £4,250. 07941 020813.

FORD KA 2009, good condition, 12 months MOT, £350. 07935 276478.

PEUGEOT PARTNER van, 58/09 12 mths MOT, 64k, just serviced traffic master, roof bars, very good condition £3,800 ono. 01384 390034.

VAUXHALL COMBO 1.7DL Manual 2003, 55k, FSH, MOT 30/07/15, good condition, SRC, 1 previous owner £1,550 ono. 0121 550 9559

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9 Local Information

public & legal notices

JOSEPH CALLOWAY
(Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 31 Blue Stone Walk Rowley Regis West Midlands B65 9DG, who died on 24/04/2014, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 02/01/2015, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
SILKS SOLICITORS LTD
27 Birmingham Street Oldbury
West Midlands B69 4DY 742343

Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010 NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 11 OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

Proposed development at:
St. Peter's Church, Church Road, Halesowen, West Midlands B63 2UL
Take notice that application is being made by:
Organisation name: St. Peter's Church
Applicant name: Rev Kathryn Leclercz
For planning permission to:
Description of proposed development: Work to the site and building of St. Peter's Church to enable increased access to the church and enhanced community and congregation facilities to the site including remodelled car parking, connection to Cenotaph, memorial Garden, Labyrinth and site circulation.
Local Planning Authority to whom the application is being submitted: Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Local Planning Authority address: Directorate of Urban Environment Planning Services, 4 Ednam Road, Dudley DY1 1HL
Any owner of the land or tenant who wishes to make representations about this application, should write to the council within 21 days of the date of this notice.
Signatory:
Mr Richard Bailey
Dated: 15/10/14
Statement of owner's rights: The grant of planning permission does not affect owners' rights to retain or dispose of their property, unless there is some provision to the contrary in an agreement or lease.
Statement of agricultural tenants' rights: The grant of planning permission for non-agricultural development may affect agricultural tenants' security of tenure.
Owners' means a person having a freehold interest or a leasehold interest the unexpired term of which is not less than seven years.
Tenant' means a tenant of an agricultural holding any part of which is comprised in the land.

10 Personals

personal

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Seeking a lady between 40-55 for a long term relationship.
I'm a very kind and trustworthy person, I live on my own and am self employed, I'm very outgoing, I enjoy walking, going out for meals and going on holiday. It would be nice to have someone to share these things with.
Genuine replies only please.
If possible a recent photo would be appreciated.
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GENUINE MALE 57
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Looking for a nice lady, under 55, for Friendship / Relationship.
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WEDNESFIELD FC U15's
(School Year 10)
We have an exciting opportunity for experienced players to join us and enjoy playing a high standard of football in the Southern Junior Premier League against such teams as WBA, Bham City and Arsenal. Our matches are played on Saturday mornings and we train one night in the week.
If you are interested please call or text Dean (Manager) on 07930 328570.

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Slim, fit, single, own house and car, non smoker, very loving, understanding, WLTm slim, medium lady, local for genuine friendship / relationship.
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School year 11 to 17 years old
Level 2 Coaching given
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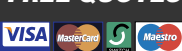
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Andy and Jess earn call ups for GB

HALESOWEN'S Jess Varnish and Wolverhampton's Andy Tennant have been included in Great Britain's squad for the opening Track World Cup event of the season in Mexico next month.

Varnish, a former Halesowen Cycling Club member, and Tennant – who was born in Wolverhampton – are named in a strong GB side along with stars Jason Kenny and Laura Trott.

Kenny, who missed last week's European Track Championships in Guadeloupe, returns alongside Phil Hindes in the men's sprint squad for the Guadalajara event, which takes place from November 8 to 9.

The 17-strong team includes 10 recently crowned European champions, two of which are double gold medallists Katie Archibald and Trott.

Sir Bradley Wiggins is not in the squad but is expected to compete in the second World Cup of the season in London in early December.

Technical director Shane Sutton said: "We won eight medals at the European Track Championships in Guadeloupe and our aim is now to build on this and carry the momentum."

Irvine in defence of pal Moyes

BAGGIES chief Alan Irvine has leapt to the defence of close friend David Moyes after the sacked Manchester United boss was blamed by Sir Alex Ferguson for the club's decline.

In an updated chapter of his autobiography, Ferguson appears to blame Moyes alone for last season's United failure and distance himself from the decision to appoint the former Everton boss. Irvine, who worked closely with Moyes at Goodison Park, said: "I thought he had (chosen Moyes). My understanding at the time was that that's what was said."

"It was implied that Alex Ferguson had chosen him. "He is a fantastic manager and a great man as well."

Hockey squad get first three-pointer

Chesterfield 10HHC 1sts 4

OLD Halesonians Hockey Club Men's 1st XI furthest away game of the season, ended with the Halesowen team earning their first three points of the season.

The early league strugglers, Chesterfield, got off to a poor start and Hales dominated the early exchanges. Hales looked full of energy and as they have previously this season, got off to an excellent start.

Matt Cole who had been called up to the 1st XI after a short stint in the 2nd XI opened his account with the 1sts, when he made an excellent run with the ball into the

Hockey

circle. He was challenged, but was able to regain control and slot it into the goal. Cole celebrated in style with a classic aeroplane run towards the team.

Hales doubled their lead soon after, following a scrappy interchange.

Paul Harrold found himself in front of goal, where he saw his initial shot saved by the Chesterfield goalkeeper.

He was able to force the ball goalwards from the rebound, and it was Harry Hughes

who got the final touch into the goal despite the home side's protests.

The umpires disciplined the home side by way of a warning. Two soon became three for Hales, when Paul Woodall slotted home from a penalty corner.

A penalty corner was dispatched past goalkeeper Steven Charlton to give the hosts a consolation.

Hales reacted superbly and went straight up the other end, where Tom Bulteel scored a penalty corner of his own.

The second half saw few chances for either side. Early on, Chesterfield were

reduced to 10 men when a defender was shown the red card for dissent towards the umpire.

Hales were unfortunate to not extend their lead, but they stood strong for the remainder of the game to maintain their three goal advantage and take the game.

Other Results: Bromsgrove 3 OHHC Ladies 1sts 2; OHHC 2nds 1 Bournville 1, goalscorers: Mark Rigby; Bournville 5 OHHC 3rds 2, goalscorers: Joe Thorne (2); OHHC 4ths 0 Lichfield 1; Bromsgrove 2 OHHC 5ths 5, goalscorers: Neil Hurst (2), Ade Harper, Phil Cox.

Irvine refutes Saido's burnout

ALBION boss Alan Irvine has dismissed fears that Saido Berahino could suffer from burnout after becoming the key figure in the Baggies' Premier League plans.

Berahino has hit six league goals this term to establish himself as Irvine's first-choice centre-forward ahead of record £10m signing Brown Ideye.

He has started all eight of the club's Premier League games but Irvine has played down talk of tiredness – a hot topic after Liverpool's Raheem Sterling complained of fatigue while on England duty.

"I don't believe Saido will burn out," said Irvine. "Players in the Football League are playing Saturday-Tuesday-Saturday-Tuesday and they keep doing it."

"If we start speaking to him about needing a rest he might need a rest!"

Berahino's form has led to inevitable speculation about a possible January move but Irvine has backed the 21-year-old to keep his feet on the ground.

The Scot said: "I think Saido has the maturity to realise if he keeps doing what he does he will make progress here and all sorts of things will open up."

Old Halesonians 13 South Leicester 22

OLD Hales' first team regrouped from a disappointing loss at Scunthorpe last week.

The home side were confident from the start and immediately took the game to a very big Leicester team. Strong running by forwards Pete Fitzgerald, skipper Richard Taylor and Tom Jordan made ground.

Scrum half Nathan Jones and debutant fly half Gareth Bown gelled quickly and gave good service to their backs, which included the two Robinson brothers, Carl and Andy, in the centres.

Hales pressure initially was not turned into points and the visitors weathered the storm to come back. A line out, catch and drive was a big part of South Leics game, they rolled forward and scored an unconverted try to lead.

Hales responded with some fine phases and pressure that forced a penalty, which Chris Hooper converted. This sparked off some excellent play with Hooper, Luke Smith and Warren Oliver strong in attack.

Hales were strong in the tight and won ball in the opposition 22 for Nathan Jones to feed Bown at stand off who jinked his way elegantly through the defence to score a try converted by Hooper.

South Leics started the second half in the ascendancy, their driving maul with big forwards was simple but effective. Their defence was also strong and their stand off controlled the game with excellent kicks for position.

Rugby

This was rewarded with another driving maul with a converted try to take the lead again. The home side tried desperately to pull back the deficit and although valiant in defence the visitors used their size to retain possession.

This led to a ball out to the backs, a kick over the defence, a pick up and sprint to the line for another converted try. Time was running out as Hales fought to gain possession and ground. Another penalty awarded which Hooper quickly took.

Hopes of scoring a final try were dashed as South Leics were awarded a penalty in kicking distance. The visiting fly half obliged for the final score.

The Bournville grounds are unavailable this Saturday so this match has been rearranged to Wassail Grove. Kickoff 2.15pm.

Other scores are **Worcester Wanderers 2nds 19 Old Halesonians 2nds 36;**

Old Halesonians 3rds 41 Worcester Wanderers 3rds 7.

No Match for the fourths this week as DK fourths were not available.



Nathan Jones for Old Hales looks to get his hand on the ball during the match against South Leicester

Tickets for The Ashes going fast

TICKETS are selling fast for next year's Ashes Test at Edgbaston.

With exactly nine months to go until the Ashes return to Birmingham, the city is also hoping for a £26.4m boost to the local economy.

Edgbaston hosts the third Test of the series and Bears chiefs are hoping that more than 100,000 cricket fans will come through the doors for the clash between July 29-August 2.

Colin Povey, Warwickshire's chief executive, said: "We're working towards a record five-day attendance for the Ashes Test Match. Day three (Friday) has already sold out and we expect the last few tickets for day four to be snapped up within the next few days."



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SPORT

Three glee
Hockey side enjoys
first full points
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Packed down
Big squad proves too
much for Old Hales
Page 39



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Backing blow for future of riders

TONY MOLE has revealed that plans to bring Birmingham back to the track for the 2015 speedway season have fallen through.

The Brummies closed down midway through the 2014 campaign following the collapse of the Alan Phillips promotion.

Kidderminster-based Mole, who brought the sport back to the city after an absence of more than 20 years in 2007, quickly began plans to try and ensure the club returned to the tapes next season.

However, having held several meetings with potential investors he says he has been left with no choice but to pull the plug, with a lack of investment meaning the proposition is not financially viable.

Mole said: "Our attempts to bring Birmingham back in 2015 have failed because there are insufficient financial pledges being made to meet the targeted figure of £100,000.

"For that reason I won't be able to promote speedway in the Elite League or Premier League at Perry Barr next season.

"It's disappointing but in many ways not surprising.

"There is no doubt the previous promotion alienated the sponsors, who will be upset they did not get the service expected."

Rowett's up for Wolves

NEW Birmingham boss Gary Rowett insists he is relishing his first game in charge in which he faces Wolves.

Rowett has taken over the St Andrew's hot-seat with Blues just one place off the foot of the Championship.

Looking ahead to Saturday's Molineux derby, Rowett said: "It's into the lion's den but that's what it's all about."

"I know this job won't be easy but I'm ready for that and I'm looking forward to helping drive this club forward."

The former Burton chief takes control with Blues second bottom of the Championship with just two wins this season.

The club's ownership is also under scrutiny.

Birmingham were thumped 8-0 by Bournemouth at St Andrew's on Saturday.

Tivs dust themselves off for the victory

Sheffield FC 0 Tivdale FC 3

AFTER a spell of just one win in 10 games going back to the 4-0 FA cup win over Stafford Rangers Tivdale put all that behind them.

They went to Sheffield FC outplayed them and ran out comfortable winners. Tivdale had the first chance of the game when after six minutes David Bellis shot from 20 yards out and Sheffield keeper Joe Green turned the ball in for a corner.

On 22 minutes Tivdale went ahead when following neat interplay between Chris Field and Leigh Downing they played in

Football

Nigel Penney and he guided the ball past Green into the net at the far post to open the scoring.

Tivdale had a chance to increase their lead within minutes snuffed out when Penney's header was parried away by Green and defender Reece White cleared, the goal

Then Karl Edwards just failed to latch onto a Leigh Downing cross which denied him a chance to get on the scoresheet.

Downing then moved in for the kill and

forced Green into another save on the half hour mark.

Tivdale were now absolutely dominant at this stage and Penny maybe should have done better when he failed to beat Green with a header when he was unmarked just before the teams went in for the half time break.

Sheffield had the first real chance of the second half when James Gregory forced Tivdale keeper Charlie Price into his first save of the game.

Coming out in the second half Tivdale carried on where they had left off in the

first and doubled their lead on 57 minutes.

A corner kick was swung in and it was met by the Tivdale skipper Mark Smith.

It looked like the header had been handled in the area but Edwards was not going to wait for the referee to make a decision about the move as he rose and flashed home a superb overhead kick to push the Tivs further into the lead and strengthen their grip on the game.

Tivdale sealed it when they made it three in the 89th minute when Ben Algar was robbed by Tivdale substitute Jazz Luckie and Penney fired home for the final score.

Basford fight to get win

Tipton 1 Basford Utd 2

TWO second half goals in four minutes saw Basford United come from behind to defeat Tipton Town in the Midland League Premier Division.

Tipton went 1-0 to the good in the 52nd minute, Ida Yasseri-Mze smashing home a direct free-kick off the underside of the crossbar after Ble Pangne had been felled unfairly by a Basford player.

Steve Weaver, scorer of the two goals that did for Lye Town in midweek, almost added to the home club's score in the 69th minute but found visiting keeper Martin Kearney equal to the task.

The visitors came strongly again and levelled the scores in the 73rd minute when Aaron Webster drove home with a blistering strike from 25 yards.

Pressure from the visitors began to increase, and home keeper Sam Pearson was forced to save brilliantly from Ryan Whitehurst before Ivisse Nightingale broke the home players' hearts by driving home what proved to be the winner in 77th minute for the Nottingham club.

Ryan to rescue for the Team

Wyrley 1 Team Dudley 1

A stoppage time equaliser from Ryan Spittle secured a 1-1 draw for Team Dudley at Wyrley in West Midlands League Division One.

Theodore Brown pounced on a misplaced pass to open the scoring for the hosts.

Wyrley keeper Josh Bowker was finally beaten when Spittle hit home.

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MACKENZIE GETS POINTS FOR YELTZ

Halesowen Town 1 Witton Albion 0

HALESOWEN'S Neil MacKenzie struck a sweet first half shot to earn all three points.

The win condemned wilting Witton to an unenviable sequence of 11 straight league defeats. Aaron Forde's fifth minute volley fell inches wide as Halesowen carved out the better chances.

Robert Thompson-Brown's 19th minute shot on the turn was saved low down by goalkeeper Daniel East.

East then made a fine double save after captain Joe Hull rose to meet Tom Tonks' 21st minute corner with a free header and kept out the rebound from Hull's follow up.

At the other end, Kris Green made a fine block from Jamie Rainford's fierce shot.

Picking

MacKenzie seized his moment to strike Halesowen's winner in the 25th minute after calmly picking his spot from the edge of the area to place the ball beyond East after Curtis Tilt played the ball from the right.

Shortly before the interval East made another terrific save after Hull's header pinballed off a Witton defender and at the start of the second period Thompson-Brown flashed a shot just wide.

From that point it was Witton who made the running as the Halesowen defence lived dangerously and Michael Powell just failed to turn home a rebound from Rainford's 78th minute

Football

shot. But the Yeltz defence held firm to earn another vital three home points and two late breaks saw Ben Haseley go close after Tonks played a couple of fine through balls from midfield.

Buxton 2 Halesowen 1

The first half was relatively quiet from both sides.

The second half was a completely different affair, as both sides became more attacking and creative.

The game had its first goal in the 60th minute, as the ball was handled in the 18 yard box by Laurie Wilson, resulting with a Yeltz penalty. Christie easily placed the ball into the bottom right hand corner.

However, Halesowen's lead would only last a matter of minutes, as Buxton's Mark Reed flicked on to Shaun Tuton to score.

Then seven minutes later, a long ball from the defender flew towards Mark Reed, who touched the ball down and he out-muscled Joe Hull before chipping the ball over an uncertain Sargeant to grab his 250th goal for Buxton, at the age of 32. Halesowen couldn't find a way back.

Cherries on top as odds against the Albion



Gareth McAuley tangles with Tokelo Rantie during the battle in Bournemouth

Bournemouth 2 Albion 1

THE pre-match odds pitched the hosts as favourites at Dean Court and they proved correct.

But only after a rip-roaring cup-tie in which a Tommy Elphick own goal four minutes from the end cancelled out Eunan O'Kane's opener, only for Cherries top scorer Callum Wilson to scamper clear seconds later to win it.

Both teams made 10 changes to their teams from the weekend,

which on the surface might lead to questions of how seriously they were taking it.

Yet it did little to harm the spectacle as the impressive hosts claimed a win against an Albion side who rather huffed and puffed in places.

Christian Gamboa was impressing for Albion with some nice touches but it needed a more industrial piece of defending, by way of a full-blooded block on a Kermorgant shot, to

keep Myhill untroubled.

Four minutes after the restart Albion were behind. Stanislas burst forward out of midfield and, with defenders backing off, he slid in O'Kane, who finished first time under Myhill. Albion seemed out of ideas but with four minutes to go Samaras found space on the left-hand side of the box and his shot deflected off Elphick.

They were level for only seconds.



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